Lifestyle / J1

Fashion Week weak but for some brilliant designers

Metro / A23

21 footbridges now rising on Edsa, in Metro Manila

News / A2

'Boy Negro' to turn state witness in Valentine bombing

Business / B3

Japanese financier fumes as generals retreat over LRT-1 expansion

World / A12

German Cardinal Ratzinger seen as frontrunner in race for papacy

Quake rumor rocks Phivolcs, sends wave of fear thru Metro

BUTI NA LANG HINDI NATULOY!

By Blanche S. Rivera

PREDICTIONS of an intensity 9 earthquake rocked the country's seismology center yesterday and sent a wave of panic around Metro Manila.

QUAKE/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Air Force general demoted to colonel for falsifying age

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

CORRUPTION in the military not only involves multimillion-peso contracts, it includes age, too.

The Armed Forces announced yesterday the demotion of an Air Force major general to colonel after he falsified his date of birth to

AIR FORCE/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, April 15, 2005 ★★ 104 pages / 14 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 126 P18

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Susan outraged, socks it to Gloria

FPJ's BETTER HALF, Susan Roces, is on fire as she holds her first big press conference since the Supreme Court's decision junking her petition to substitute for her husband in his election protest. JOAN BONDOC

'We were not given chance to seek truth'

By Fe Zamora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JUST days after she dropped her bid to replace her late husband in his election protest, Susan Roces, the widow of movie idol and losing opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., yesterday flatly rejected the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency.

In her first big press conference since Poe's death four months ago, Roces said the President's legitimacy would remain "unanswered in the minds of millions of Filipinos" because "we were not given the chance to seek the truth."

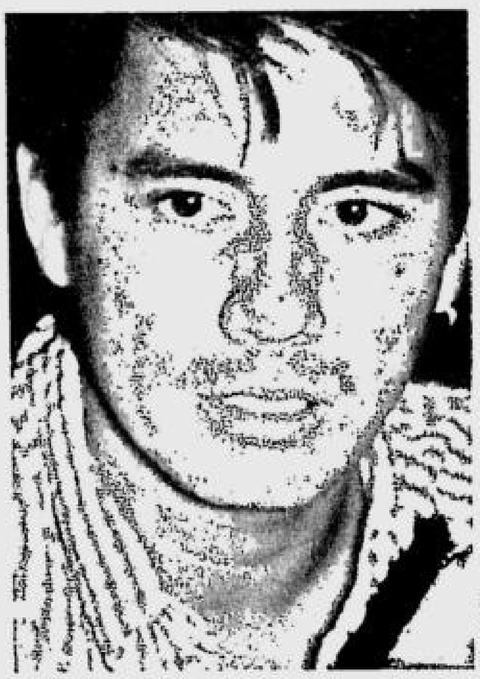
"If you won, as the winner you will just be proud for them to open all the documents and show off that you won, is it not?" she said.

The Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, on March 29 threw out Poe's petition protesting Ms Arroyo's victory as well as Roces' petition to substitute for her late husband in the election protest.

Roces appeared to have accepted the PET's unanimous ruling to junk her husband's election protest

SUSAN/ A21

DOESN'T GET ANY FINER THAN THIS. President Arroyo gets into the swim of things as soon as she arrives in Boracay on Thursday. EDWIN BACASMAS



RICHARD GOMEZ: This is happening to me because I'm a strong voice of the opposition. PDI PHOTO

Gomez charged for not paying 2000-'03 taxes

By Michelle V. Remo

ENTERTAINMENT star Richard Gomez is facing a possible jail term of 1-10 years with the tax evasion charge lodged against him yesterday by the Department of Finance and Bureau of Internal Revenue with the Department of Justice.

The DOF and BIR said Gomez did not pay taxes and did not file income tax returns during the taxable years 2000 to 2003—a willful attempt, they said, to conceal his true income in order to evade paying taxes.

The BIR said Gomez, whose full name is

GOMEZ/ A21

Vidal no chance to be pope; Sin sorely missed

By Lito B. Zulueta

ROME—Enter as pope and come out a cardinal goes the common adage about the "papabile" or papal contenders who do not quite make it despite much expectation.

When the Philippines' Ricardo Vidal enters the Sistine Chapel on Monday to take part in the conclave to choose the successor to John Paul II, he will enter a cardinal and come out a cardinal.

Conclave watchers have given the low-key and self-effacing archbishop of Cebu no chance of being elected pope.

"I would say his chances are very little," said Rome-based Filipino priest Fr. Antonio Pernia, head of the Society of the Divine Word missionary order that has 6,000 priests and brothers in mission lands in Asia and Africa. "But I am open to surprises of the Holy Spirit."

The papal prospects of other Asian cardinals are also not bright, Pernia said.

"I would say it is very unlikely to have an Asian pope," he said. "It is more likely to contemplate having an African pope than an Asian pope. Simply because among so-called papabile, we have an African possibility, less an Asian possibility."

It would have been a different story had retired Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin made it to the conclave. Sin is 76 and still eligible to take part in the conclave but he cannot come because of health problems.

Sin is the only surviving cardinal

VIDAL/ A22

Murder at noon: Political rivalry, grudge eyed

By Luige A. del Puerto and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PERSONAL GAIN or deep anger could have been the reason behind the murder of former Congressman Henry Lanot, according to Pasig Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr., his friend and ally.

Jaworski yesterday urged authorities to speed up the investigation of the Wednesday killing, which he described as "an act of desperation." He added: "Every day that passes without a suspect getting caught, we are getting farther away from solving this crime."

The mastermind "did it for personal gain or anger," Jaworski told the INQUIRER. "That's why I want the investigators to explore two questions: One,' who will benefit from Lanot's death? Two, who is angry with him and has the capacity to do this?"

Jaworski, who in 2004 sought and won the post previously held by Lanot, said he had inquired from the latter's family if he had enemies.

Lanot sought the Pasig mayoralty in last year's elections, and lost to his chief political rival Vicente Eusebio by 10,752 votes. He filed a protest challenging Eusebio's victory, accusing the latter of massive vote-buying.

Earlier, Lanot had sought Eusebio's disqualification from the mayoralty race. When the Commission on Elections junked his petition, he took it to the Supreme Court.

Quoting Lanot's associates, Ja-

MURDER/ A22

Iron out differences in VAT bills, GMA urged

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo should intervene to iron out the differences between the Senate and House versions of the value-added tax (VAT) reform measure if she wants to hasten its passage.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara made the proposal as the respective panels of the two chambers prepared to convene the bicameral conference committee to reconcile the conflicting versions of the measure.

The Senate constituted its panel of nine senators on Wednesday night right after the chamber approved the VAT reform measure with a 14-6 vote.

The Senate version maintained the VAT rate at 10 percent, but ended the exemptions for fuel, power, domestic airlines and ships, doctors and lawyers.

The House version raised the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent.

IRON OUT/ A21

Enrile bolts minority; now independent

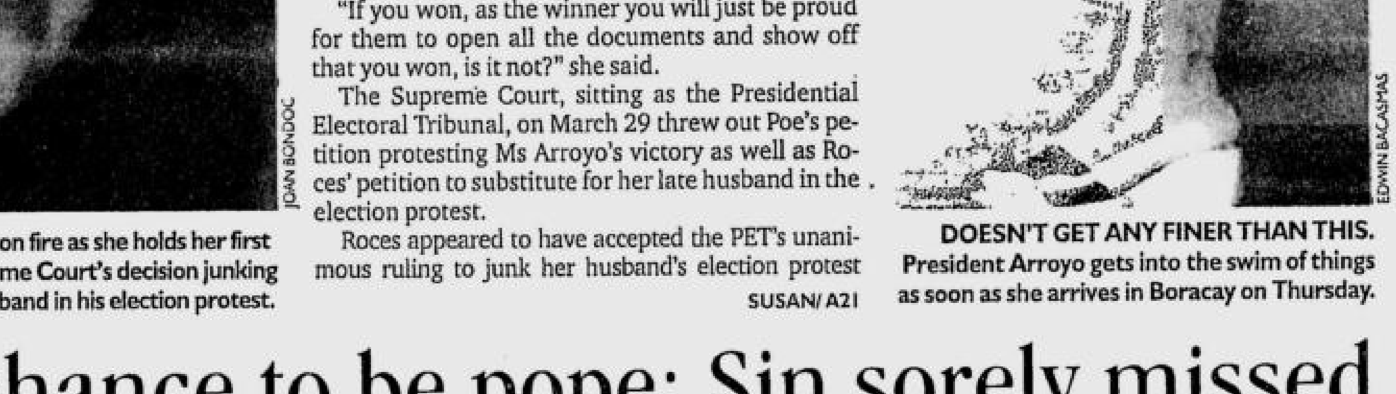
By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE VALUE-ADDED tax measure that the Senate approved on Wednesday night so strained relations among certain members of the chamber that Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile bolted the opposition and administration Sen. Pia Cayetano voted against the Senate version of the bill.

On a vote of 14-6 with three absent, the Senate approved its version that maintained the VAT rate at 10 percent, but ended the exemptions for fuel, power, domestic airlines and ships, doctors and lawyers.

Enrile yesterday announced he was bolting the minority because of "snide remarks" from

ENRILE/ A6



VAT WHY hear, speak, see no evil? It was not clear at press time if Senators Mar Roxas, Richard Gordon and Bong Revilla resorted to such antics to stay awake in between the long hours of deliberations on Wednesday night over the VAT bill. JESS YUSON

Second FRONTPAGE
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Southern Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at least times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: PDI RESEARCH/04/15/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	Roxas	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
Calapan	Partly cloudy	Davao	Partly cloudy

'Boy Negro' to turn state witness

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HIS CONFESSION and the candid revelations of other men involved in the bloody bomb attack may well buy him his freedom.

Gappal Bannah, better known as Boy Negro, would be taking the stand in court on Monday as the first prosecution witness in the trial of three other men tagged in the Valentine's Day bombing in Makati City, state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said yesterday.

"We will be making an oral manifestation in court to discharge him from the accused, but whether the court would rule on it or not, we will be calling him to the witness stand," said Velasco.

The case is set to be heard in the sala of Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Marissa Guillen of Branch 60 on Monday morning.

Once Bannah is dropped from the roster of the accused, Velasco said, he would be made a state witness and placed under state protection.

Last Monday, Bannah, with confessed Abu Sayyaf members Gamal Baharan, alias Tapay, and Angelo Trinidad and Indonesian terror suspect Rohmat, alias Zaky, faced the court for a pre-trial hearing in Guillen's sala, a family court where the separately filed cases of multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder had been consolidated.

They were charged in the death of four people and the wounding of more than 60 others on Feb. 14 when a bomb tore through an RRCG bus on Edsa near Ayala Avenue in Makati.

Only Rohmat, who goes by only one name and whom the military said had taught members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) how to build explosives, pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Bannah, on the other hand, readily admitted to the crime, confessing to the justice department shortly after surrendering to Camarines Sur officials on March 4.

Velasco said Bannah had delivered the explosives used in the Makati bombing.

"We will be presenting our first witness which is Boy Negro. We will help him because he has been very cooperative with us, and we will make him a government witness, and he is the least guilty of the four," Velasco said.

He said that Bannah had admitted in his extrajudicial confession that he had acted as the courier of the explosives upon the orders of another accused at large, Khaddafy Janjalani, leader of the Abu Sayyaf.

Baharan and Trinidad were the ones who left the bomb in the RRCG bus, Velasco said.

The state prosecutor said Bannah was instrumental in the arrest of the other suspects, after he told authorities where to find them.

Velasco said Bannah also helped authorities avert ASG attacks all over Metro Manila during Holy Week by revealing the group's plans to authorities.

"He is important [to the prosecution] in the sense that his knowledge was one factor why Trinidad and Baharan pleaded guilty. They knew we had the goods on them because we had Boy Negro," said Velasco.

The justice department, Velasco said, had other witnesses to present, including previously arrested ASG members who were privy to the planning of the Makati bombing, one of three explosions that rocked the country on Valentine's Day. The other explosions occurred in General Santos and Davao cities.

Bannah's confession to the justice department will be among the documentary evidence that state prosecutors would be presenting at the trial.

Changing of the guard gives Abra pols, cops fresh start

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE CHANGING of the guard in Abra, which begins today, is a fresh start for the province. Expectations are high the police will finally be able to disband private armed groups being maintained by local politicians, a senior police official said yesterday.

"The police can now do their job without pressure from politicians. So this is a fresh start, a good start both for policemen and politicians in the province," said Director Oscar Calderon, chief of the Police National Police-Directorial Staff.

"Expectations are high," he added.

Calderon said the assumption was that politicians exercised too much influence over the police and that they dictated the conduct of police operations.

"That's the impression that we want erased," he said.

At 8 a.m. today, some 200 policemen from nearby provinces will formally replace their colleagues at provincial headquarters, the police mobile group and the Bangued Police— the first phase in the sacking of the 529-strong Abra force.

Cops in the front lines will be the first to go, followed by those at the desks. The changes will be completed in two weeks, according to officials.

"We're ready," declared Chief Supt. Noe Wong, head of the Cordillera Administrative Region Police.

"Everything is okay so far. I'm meeting the entire (Abra) contingent tonight. Their replacements would be there by 8 a.m. tomorrow," he said.

Calderon said the PNP expects a lot from Senior Supt. Danilo Empedrad, the new Abra police chief.

"He can do what needs to be done," Caldron said. "*Mataas ang* expectation *ng* PNP *sa kanya* (The PNP expects much from him)."

On Tuesday, Interior Secretary Reyes sacked the entire Abra police force and withdrew control and supervision over it from the governor and town mayors, citing the inability of the police to enforce the law in the province.

The order suspending the local officials' supervisory powers over the police force, called deputation, effectively placed the entire province under police control.

Reyes said the move was meant "to restore law and order in the province of Abra and to preempt undue influence on the outcome of the ongoing investigation."

This was the first time in recent years that an entire provincial police force was sacked, although the Pasay force was relieved for bungling a hostage situation a few years back.

"Our investigation has revealed that some politicians there are maintaining private armies, and developments had not contributed at all to the maintenance of peace and order," Reyes said.

Last month, Reyes created a fact-finding team to investigate the "reign of terror" in Abra. It was headed by Napolcom Director Miguel Coronel, with Cordillera-Napolcom director Rodolfo Santos and former Cordillera police head Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza as members.

House hikes subsistence pay of cops, soldiers

By Michael Lim Ubac

FROM a meager P60 a day, the subsistence allowance of uniformed personnel was increased yesterday to P120 per day by the House committee on national defense.

This translates to a P3,600 monthly allowance for each member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

The legislation came nearly two years after a group of junior military officers and soldiers staged a mutiny in Makati City to protest issues such as corruption in the military and the impoverished state of families of the rank and file in the Armed Forces.

If enacted, the increase will take effect this year and every three years thereafter, said committee chair Parañaque City Rep. Roilo Golez yesterday.

Golez said the measure would cost about P120 million per year to the AFP alone.

He, however, could not fix the rate of increase in the future since it would be pegged on the consumer price index.

The committee report, signed by 110 members of the House of Representatives, will be tackled in plenary session next week.

He said the lawmakers deemed it fit to increase the allowance because the current rate was no longer reasonable amid the series of increases in the prices of basic goods and commodities and the peso devaluation.

He said proponents of the measure had sought the periodic adjustment in the allowances of uniformed personnel, including the Moro National Liberation Front integrees, in the AFP.

The lawmaker said it was high time the long-overdue request of soldiers for a higher allowance was granted.

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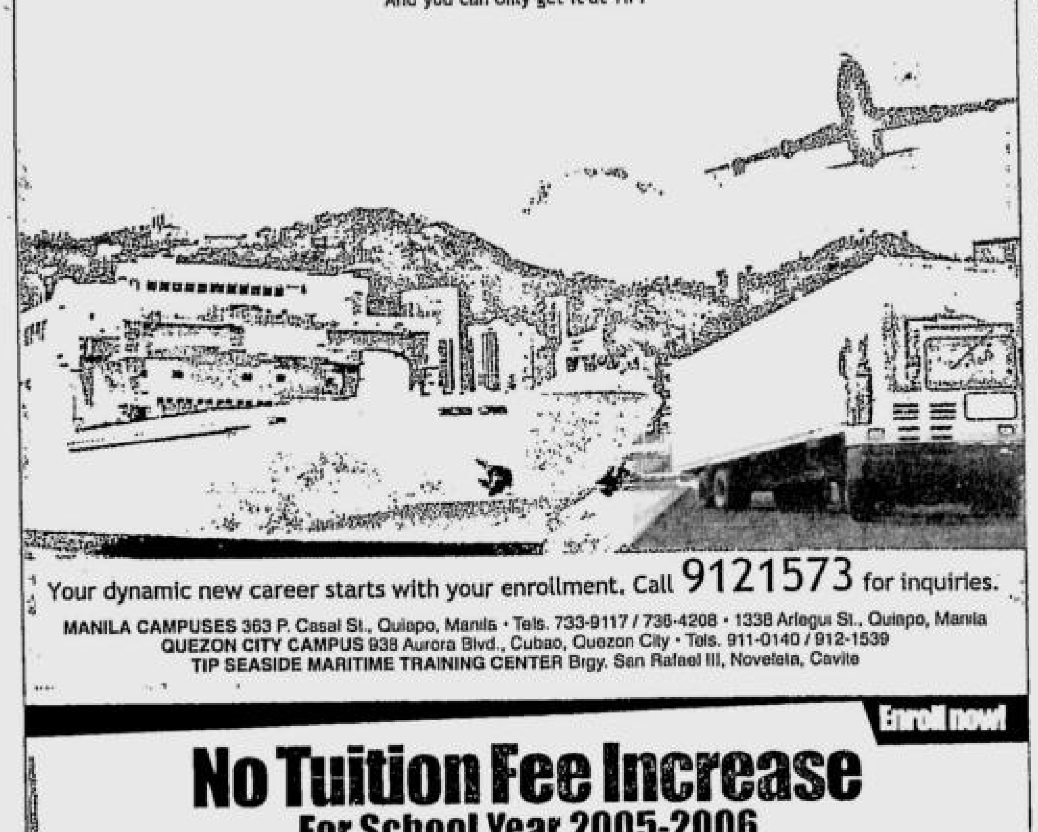

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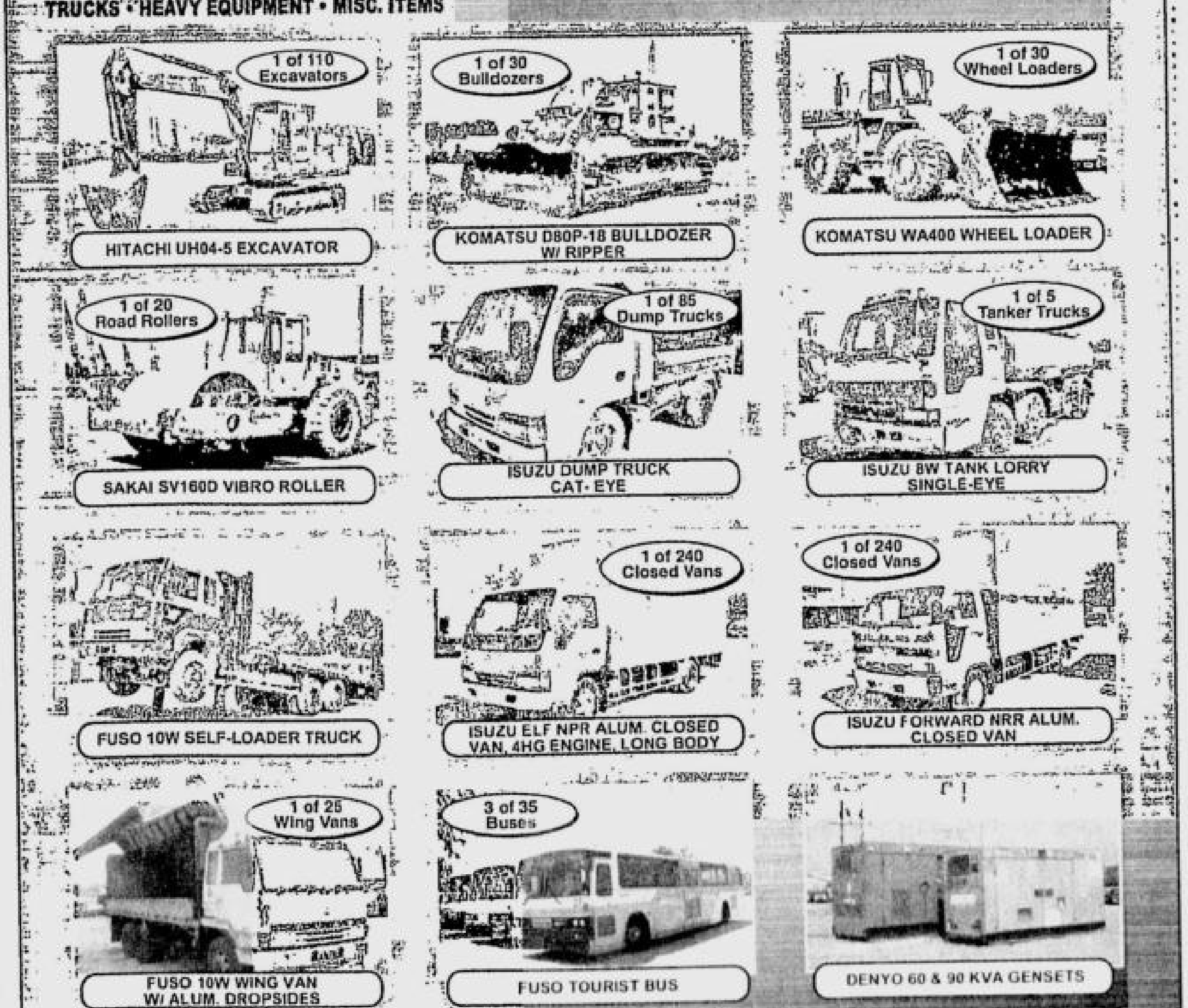
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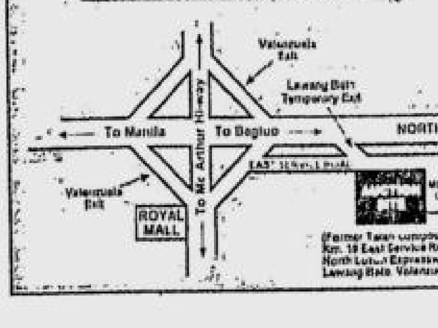

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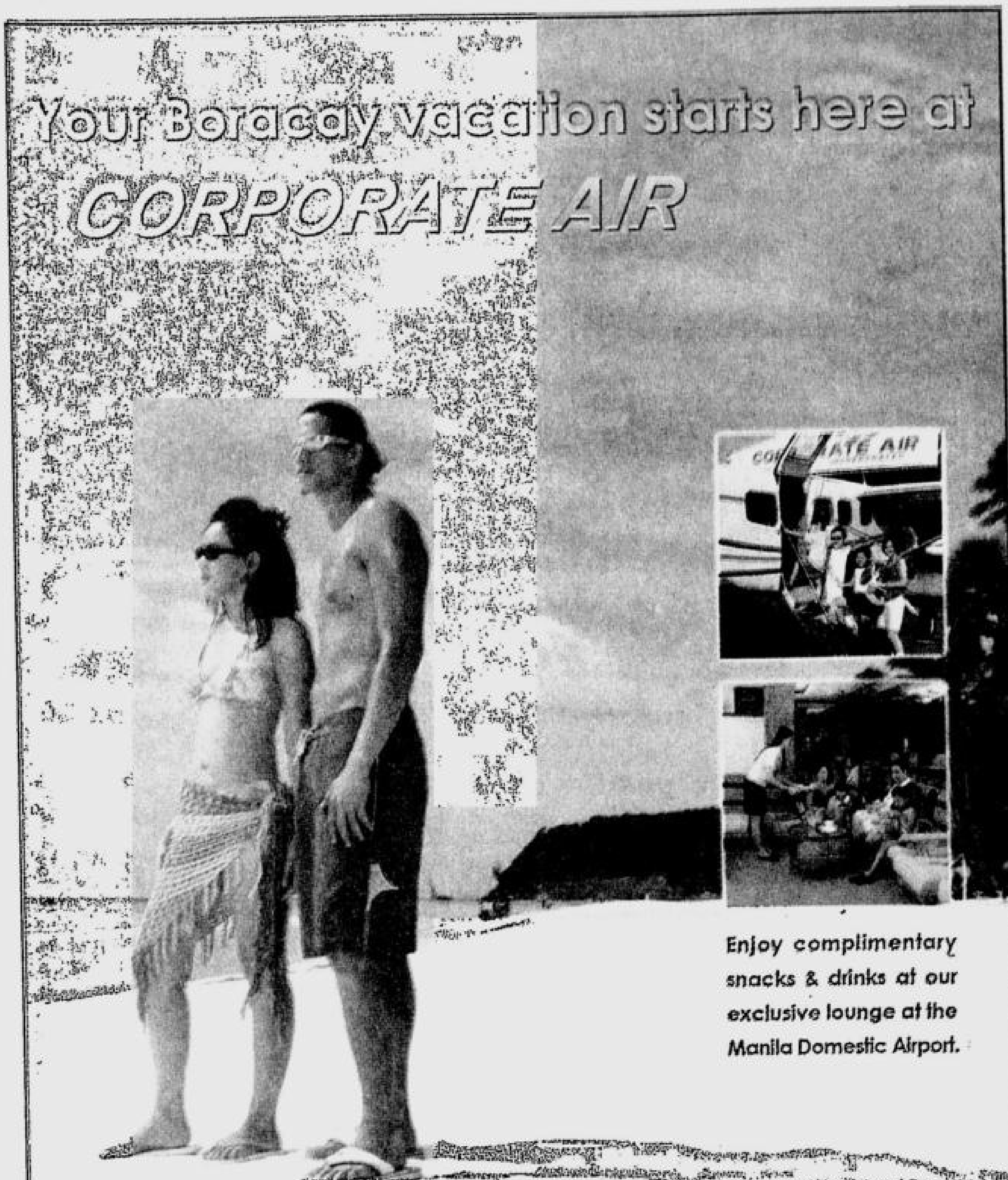
Shangri-La to open resort, spa on Boracay

SHANGRI-LA Hotel and Resorts will start construction of a $60 million resort and spa in the popular Boracay island, Malacañang said yesterday.

The leading Asian luxury hotel group said its facility will have 170 large guestrooms, 50 beachfront villas and a spa with the latest amenities. It is scheduled to open in 2007, Malacañang said in a statement.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will be a guest at the groundbreaking today, the palace said.

This will be the first major foreign investment in the 80-hectare tourism economic zone on the island created by Arroyo to attract more investment in the area, it added. *AFP*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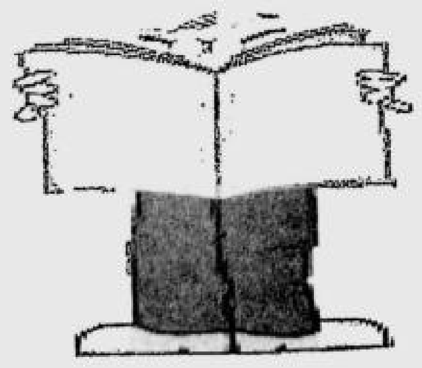

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No plan to enter text gambling–Pagcor

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. yesterday said it had no plans of introducing new text games or promote such activities, quashing allegations of telecom companies that the state agency would like to dip its hands into text gambling.

"It is the stand of Pagcor that text games are games of chance. As the sole authority to regulate all games of chance in the country, these games, therefore, fall under Pagcor's jurisdiction," the agency said in a statement.

Major mobile phone companies like Smart Communications Inc. and sister firm Pilipino Telephone Corp. as well as their fierce competitor Globe Telecom Inc. were all blocking the Pagcor's application for a four-digit access code from the National Telecommunications Commission.

The access code, according to the Pagcor, would allow it to monitor and regulate any form of gambling being done through text messaging because all forms of text games would have to pass through the four-digit code exclusive to the gaming firm.

About three years ago, the Pagcor pointed out that telecom companies and even broadcast networks engaged heavily in text gaming. At that time, Congress found out that the major players were earning between P5 and P6 million each for just half-a-year of running text games.

The government was not able to get its share from the text games that were classified as gambling because they met the three criteria. For an activity to be classified as gambling, there has to be a fee to join, a chance to win, and a prize.

"Mobile phone companies are just opposing the move of Pagcor because their revenues would shrink," a Pagcor official said.

Now mobile carriers are alleging that there are no sufficient safeguards to ensure that minors would not engage in gambling, especially since more than 97 percent of Smart and Globe's combined 32 million subscribers are prepaid customers who have no active record with the operators.

The Pagcor countered that anybody who would join any text games would have to buy a prepaid card with denominations ranging from P500 to P5,000. The agency assures that it would sell these prepaid cards only to adults.

"The state-run gaming firm's primary objectives in regulating the text games are to ensure that the government receives its just and rightful share of the profit from text games, in the form of revenues and taxes, and to protect the consumers, particularly the youth," the Pagcor insisted.

The Pagcor could automatically deduct the government's 20 percent share from any gambling revenue.

"Text games have proliferated in the past few years because of the technological advancements introduced by the telecom firms and as such, have become easily accessible even to young children," it added.

The Pagcor said it would also use the special access code to monitor the actual volume of text messages received by the telecom companies with relation to the text games. This will help the gaming outfit determine how much the telecom companies earn through these games and establish how much of the income should go to the government.

The access numbers, added the Pagcor, would eliminate the possibility of consumers being duped by bogus text games or raffles.

The Pagcor is asking the NTC to grant it a four-digit access code to send and receive text and multi-media messages as well as access trunks with Internet service providers or ISPs so it could operate games of chance through mobile phones and the Internet.

SC: Nothing irregular in Urban cases

By Armand N. Nocum and Margaux C. Ortiz

AN OFFICIAL of the Supreme Court yesterday denied there had been any irregularity in the fact that the five cases filed by the late Urban Bank president Teodoro "Ted" Borlongan against those he believed to be behind the bank's collapse had landed in only one division of the high tribunal.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER, Clerk of Court Luzviminda Puno said cases in the high court are "usually consolidated if they cover the same issues or parties, so it's not because of the raffle."

"There was no irregularity," she said, adding that cases presented at an en banc session "will be deliberated upon by the 15 justices."

"Even though there's only one judge assigned (to the case), all of them will deliberate on the case," she said.

Prior to his death, Borlongan had asked Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide to personally look into the Urban Bank cases, raising the possibility that there might have been some irregularities involved.

"As you well realize, that four separate cases, although interrelated, would land on the same handling judge is highly improbable, had they been subjected to (the) customary case raffling procedures," Borlongan had said.

Four of the five cases were dismissed with finality by the high tribunal.

But Borlongan's friends and supporters would not be mollified.

"Dirty banking and dirty justice killed Ted," according to activist priest Fr. Roberto Reyes during a requiem Mass said for Borlongan in front of the Supreme Court in Manila yesterday morning.

"Ted always went to the Supreme Court when he was still alive," Reyes said.

"Now, he is going to the highest court where the chief justice and his associates are not appointed, not beholden, where they are principled and fearless," the priest said.

Borlongan committed suicide by shooting himself in the head in his vehicle at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City on Monday.

"His death merely reflects an earlier death, (that of) the banking system," Reyes read from a two-page statement addressed to the Supreme Court.

He included in his homily a brief history of what Borlongan had been fighting for the past five years.

Reyes said that on April 26, 2000, former President Joseph Estrada ordered Central Bank Gov. Rafael Buenaventura to close Urban Bank. Borlongan fought this but was denied five times, the priest said. *With Jean Marionne Bermudez*

Corrections

IN THE story about the possibility of a Latin American pope, it was mentioned that a secular or non-religious cardinal like Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Madariaga of Honduras has better chances of becoming pope than Cardinal Claudio Hummes of Sao Paulo, Brazil and Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, who are Franciscan and Jesuit, respectively. Madariaga is a member of the Salesian order.

Also in the story about the possibility of an African pope, it was erroneously mentioned that Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria used to be prefect of the Congregation for Interreligious Dialogue. It should have been the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

* * *

THE YOUNGEST brigadier in the Armed Forces is Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, who is assigned as commander of 103rd Brigade in Basilan. Ferrer was born on Jan. 12, 1956, while Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim was born on June 2, 1955. Ferrer and Lim got their star rank last Tuesday.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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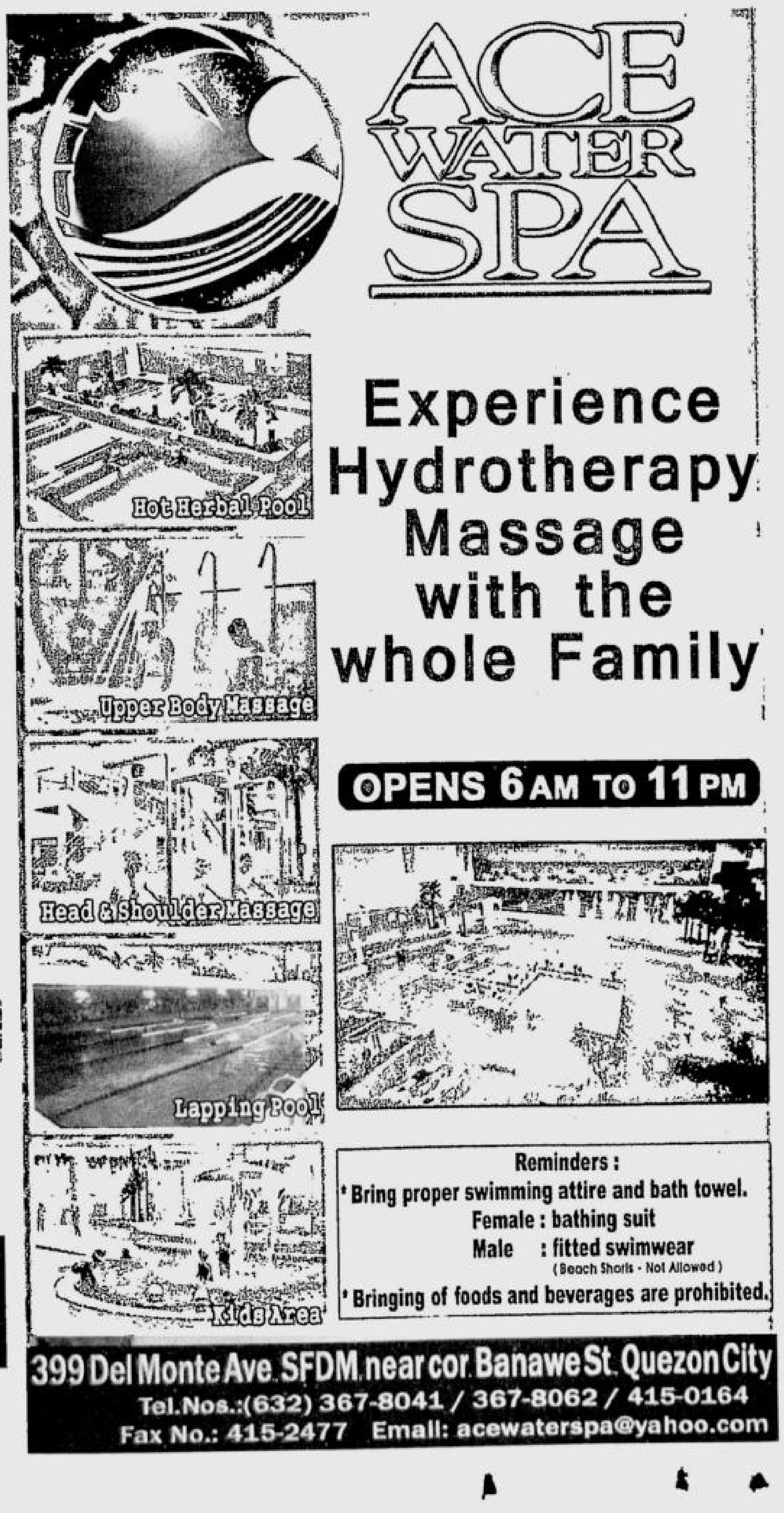
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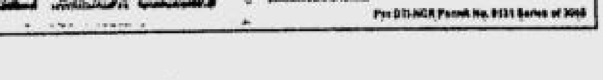

Enrile bolts minority; now independent

From page A1

fellow oppositionists when he suddenly changed his vote to yes during the final approval of the expanded VAT bill.

'Independent opposition'

Enrile, the first to cast a "no" vote only to change it within minutes courtesy of Senate President Franklin Drilon's persuasive powers, said he would now become an "independent opposition senator."

"And by this, therefore, I will no longer recognize the leadership of the minority leader in the Senate," Enrile said, referring to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Pimentel apologized to Enrile yesterday afternoon but it was not known if he could woo the latter back to the fold.

Sen. Richard Gordon said Enrile would be a "welcome addition" to the administration.

Gordon said Enrile should be credited for introducing the provision prohibiting the passing on of the 10-percent VAT on power to households.

Cayetano stumps majority

The administration did not emerge unscathed in the stormy debates over Malacañang's tax measure aimed at raising at least P60 billion of the P80 billion in revenues the government needs to stem the fiscal crisis.

Cayetano stumped the 14-member majority when she voted against VAT, the only administration senator to do so.

She was irked when Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who is also with the majority, succeeded in deleting the provision setting aside 25 percent of the VAT collection for various social services, including her pet concerns such as environment protection and health care.

Biazon rejected the "earmarking" of one-fourth of the revenues from VAT, saying this is a form of pork barrel.

Cayetano, however, said she was not leaving the majority.

'Balut' diplomacy

During the seven hours it took the senators to arrive at a vote on Wednesday night, senators munched on pistachio nuts, two boxes of *balut* that Cayetano had thoughtfully ordered from Pateros and watermelons sent by Sen. Manuel Villar.

But the "balut diplomacy" did not soften the verbal blows that erupted when the senators started explaining their votes.

Enrile drew first blood when he explained why he had changed his no vote.

"I would have maintained my negative vote but in view of the precarious situation in the chamber and in order not to embarrass the chair (Drilon), I acceded to the request of the [Senate] president to vote in favor of the measure in spite of the fact that all my amendments were not approved," Enrile said.

ENRILE is constructive partner

PIMENTEL apologizes

CAYETANO bought balut

Not obstructionist

"I just want to indicate that in times of need, true to what I said in the beginning of our Congress, I see the opposition in this chamber not as an obstructionist but as a constructive partner in attaining what is good for the country," Enrile said.

By changing his vote, only six "no" votes were left—Pimentel, Luisa Ejercito, Jinggoy Estrada, Jamby Madrigal, Panfilo Lacson and Cayetano. The other opposition senators who voted for VAT were Edgardo Angara and Serge Osmeña.

Holier-than-thou attitude

Pimentel expressed "resentment at insinuations that if we vote against this bill we are obstructionists."

"I dispute the holier-than-thou attitude of some of our colleagues here who seem to imply that if there are some of us in the opposition who will vote our conscience in this bill, [we become] enemies of the state and are unworthy of the role that we play in this chamber," Pimentel said.

Lacson also took offense at Enrile's statement on obstructionism.

"I voted 'no' but I am not an obstructionist in the same manner that I was not obstructing progress when I gave up my pork barrel along with the Senate President and Senator [Alfredo] Lim," Enrile said.

Toeing the line

Enrile called a press conference to announce he was going to "dissociate" himself from the Senate minority.

"That incident brought home the fact that, evidently, some of my colleagues would want me to toe the line every time we have an issue like that," Enrile told reporters.

Enrile said he never took offense when his fellow minority members initially rejected committee chairmanships in the chamber only to apportion these among themselves later.

Enrile said that since he was named a member of the Senate panel in the bicameral conference on VAT, he would do so as an "independent opposition representing the interest of the Senate and the Filipino people."

Apology

Pimentel sent this message after lunch: "Manong (Enrile): I don't know what you told media but if you were hurt by my remarks last night, you have my apology because I didn't intend to do so. I was merely trying to emphasize voting versus VAT isn't obstructionism."

It was Pimentel who requested the closed-door caucus on Monday which paved the way for the approval of the measure.

Cayetano, for her part, admitted she was forced to change her vote to "no" after the chamber deleted the provision setting aside 25 percent of VAT collections for education, health and environment conservation.

Personal advocacies

It was her fellow administration member Biazon who had sought the deletion, saying it would run counter to the intent of the VAT to raise revenues to address the fiscal crisis. He said the senators should not tie Malacañang's hands to their personal "advocacies."

Biazon argued that the measure was about VAT and not the budget and said legislators were practically making a pork barrel out of the VAT.

"I am aware that we have a looming financial crisis. But we also have a health, education and environment crisis," Cayetano said.

Mature enough

Biazon stood by his position. "I may differ with her position but I respect it," Biazon said.

"She was really miffed. She got carried away," Gordon observed. He said he and Roxas wanted to vote "no" but decided to vote "yes" because they thought of the interest of the country.

Asked if she was bolting the majority, Cayetano said "I am not like that."

"I think this party is mature enough to withstand (incidents) like this. I think my colleagues have accepted my vote."

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Air Force general . . .

From page A1

avoid mandatory retirement.

It was the first time a high-ranking military official was demoted to a lower rank, said Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, AFP public information chief.

The appointments of Ralph Flores to brigadier general and major general were revoked after it was confirmed that he had knocked three years off his age to avoid mandatory retirement on March 30, 2002 at the age of 56.

Flores, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class '71, officially retired on March 30, 2005.

Three other members of PMA Class '71 who are all retired are being investigated for corruption. They are Army Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, Air Force Brig. Gen. Prospero Ocampo and Navy Rear Admiral Joaquin Tan.

Flores said he was born on March 30, 1949 instead of his true birthdate of March 30, 1946, a military statement said.

Benefits stripped

Flores, former head of the Philippine Air Force logistics command, was brought back to the rank of colonel and stripped of the positions he had attained after his scheduled retirement in 2002.

The officer will be considered to have been retired in 2002 and will be removed from active service. He will also be forced to return all salaries, allowances and benefits he received after his scheduled retirement, the military said.

All awards he received from that period will also be withdrawn.

Flores could also face additional charges from the Office of the Ombudsman, the statement added.

"(His) appointments are revoked for being null and void by reason of his ineligibility on account of his age.

"He shall be reverted to his original rank of colonel and deemed separated from the military service by operation of law effective March 30, 2002," said a letter signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo dated March 29, 2005. The letter was addressed to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.

Complaint

Flores was promoted to brigadier general on July 18, 2002 and major general on April 15, 2003.

The Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (J1) admitted it failed to check his records, said Pascual.

FALLING STAR: Ralph Flores went from a two-star general to a colonel, and is now retired. PAF PHOTO

Flores was placed under investigation in March 2004 after higher-ups received a complaint that Flores had falsified his birth date.

Pascual said Flores also falsified his birth year in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities (SAL).

"The SAL became the basis of J1 for his retirement," Pascual said.

The fact-finding committee headed by Maj. Gen. Raul Relano easily confirmed Flores' real age by checking his PMA cadet information, birth certificate and baptismal certificate.

To preempt the fact-finding committee's recommendation for his court martial, Flores applied for optional retirement on May 17, 2004 but the AFP top brass did not act on it. Once retired, Flores would be exempt from court martial.

Major issue

Pascual said the Judge Advocate General would likely file charges of fraud and falsification of documents against Flores with the Office of the Ombudsman.

In her letter to Cruz, the President directed AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu to implement "stringent measures to prevent the occurrence of similar situations in the future."

The retirement of officers is a major issue in the military. Junior officers complain they cannot get promoted because there are too many senior officers. *With an AFP report*

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Honorary doctorate makes VP Dr. Noli

By Cynthia D. Balana

DESPITE improved economic growth last year, Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday said government should continue to lead by example through better governance, promoting transparency in the bureaucracy, and putting an end to criminality to appease the people and improve their livelihood.

De Castro made the statement in a speech accepting his first doctorate degree in Humanities, honoris causa, from the Central Luzon State University during its 53th commencement exercises.

CLSU President Rodolfo Undan said the Academic Council unanimously agreed to bestow the degree on the vice president in recognition of the latter's "exemplary performance and achievement" as broadcast journalist, senator and now vice president." He said De Castro was actively engaged in activities aimed at uplifting the lives of the poor.

Aside from being the vice president, De Castro is also the presidential adviser on housing, price monitoring and Filipino overseas.

Stressing the need for an environment that would encourage healthy trade and investment and programs to provide safety nets for the poor in times of financial crisis, De Castro said the collective efforts of different agencies, with the active participation of the private sector, would help realize these objectives.

Courts top hindrance to land reform, says group

By Blanche S. Rivera

COURTS were the biggest hindrance to the implementation of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in recent years, the Foodfirst Information and Action Network-Philippines (Fian) said.

Fian, which came out with a report on the cases and pattern of human rights violations against peasants yesterday, said judicial obstruction has become a major problem for farmers who have certificates of land ownership but could not take over the lands due to court orders.

"The current situation of agrarian reform now is slow and hampered by judicial obstruction and lack of political will. It's worse than before, especially in the level of the regional trial courts and Court of Appeals," Fian's Manuel Quiambao said in a forum yesterday.

Quiambao noted that since last year, municipal and regional trial courts, and the Court of Appeals have been exempting or excluding haciendas already identified by the Department of Land Reform for CARP coverage.

The Court of Appeals, for example, excluded the 500-hectare sugar plantation owned by former Sen. Rene Espina in Tanjay City, Negros Oriental, from CARP coverage in a ruling issued in February.

The decision displaced some 200 peasant farmers and effectively barred them from harvesting the rice and other food crops they planted in the lands earlier awarded them by the DLR.

"The Court of Appeals seems to be the body being used nowadays by landowners to block agrarian reform," Fian said in a statement.

Fian noted that land distribution under CARP decreased significantly under the Arroyo administration, with the government distributing only 105,000 hectares in 2001, 111,000 hectares in 2002 and 97,000 in 2003.

These were much lower than the land distribution during the presidency of Fidel Ramos, who gave out an average of 314,000 hectares of land annually, and Joseph Estrada, who distributed 135,000 hectares, Fian said.

Eddie Lopez, president of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula, said even the DAR Adjudication Board, has reversed its decision to place around 18,000 hectares of coconut plantation in Quezon under CARP.

Quiambao said only around 15 percent of 370,000 hectares of sugar lands in Negros have been distributed under CARP while some 700,000 hectares of coconut plantations in the Philippines have yet to be placed under CARP despite their eligibility.

"And we haven't even mentioned the haciendas owned by Cojuangcos, Floirendos, Lorenzos, Sebastians... The landowners are appealing to the higher courts to stop the (CARP) implementation, and we all know litigation takes years," Quiambao said.

He said the recent Supreme Court decision on the Roberto Cuenca case, saying lower courts have no jurisdiction over CARP cases was the only positive ruling so far.

Delay in Naia 3 opening feared

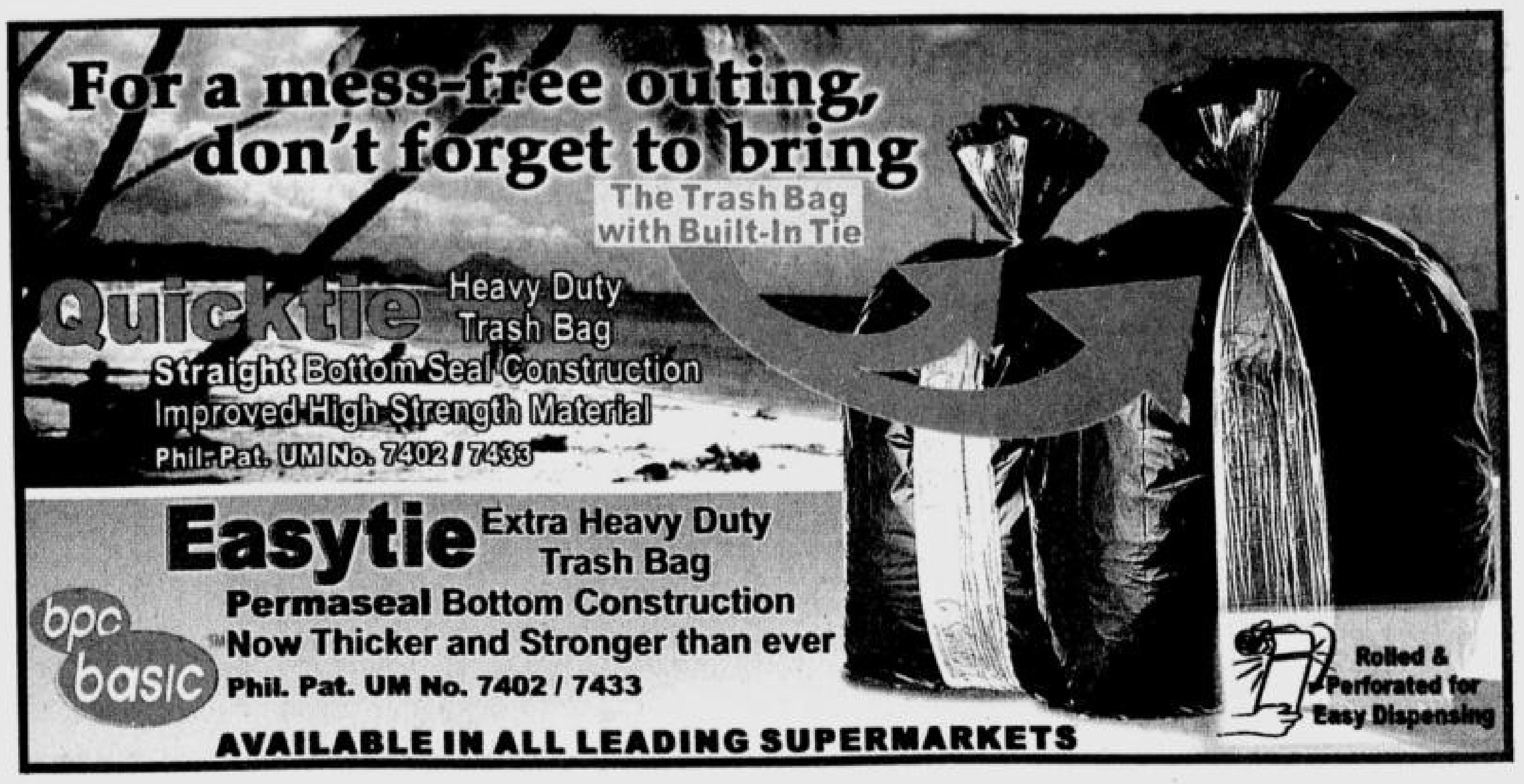
WITH only 68 days to go before the scheduled June 21 opening of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3, the country's airport authority is apparently facing major roadblocks to attain the deadline.

Airport chief Alfonso Cusi said yesterday the government has yet to obtain operational documents to enable it to run the state-of-the-art airport facility.

Cusi, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that his office was still waiting word from Takenaka Corp., the Japanese contractor that constructed the terminal, if it could be on board with the government for the Naia 3 opening.

"We want to settle the issue once and for all," Cusi said.

Nikko Dizon



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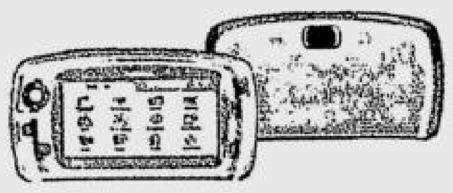

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Sokor students turn Ateneo, Mapua into 'diploma mills'

By Volt Contreras

HAVE the notorious document forgers of Recto Avenue gone international?

Fake diplomas from Ateneo de Manila University and Mapua Institute of Technology have reportedly found their way to South Korea.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday the fake diplomas were being offered to Korean nationals studying in the Philippines.

The DFA said it was alerted to the racket by the South Korean police, which had noted the proliferation of the forged diplomas and academic records allegedly obtained from a group calling itself the Korean-Philippine Cultural Exchange Center.

In a report to the DFA, the country's ambassador to Seoul, Aladin Villacorte, said the Philippine Embassy there had no knowledge of any such organization either in the Philippines or South Korea.

How the center managed to find clients remained unclear. Initial findings by Korean police showed that bogus Ateneo and Mapua diplomas were being offered to students for up to 15 million won ($14,800 or P799,200) each, Villacorte said.

Among the discovered fakes that managed to reach Korea was an MIT diploma and transcript of records dating back to November 2002.

Over the past few years, thousands of South Koreans have come to the Philippines mostly to earn college degrees or simply to learn English.

The Philippine embassy in Seoul has been asked to help South Korean police stop the proliferation of the forged diplomas and academic records.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo was quoted as saying that his department would "exert all efforts to protect the reputation of Philippine academic institutions."

The embassy also warned Philippine schools to be careful when dealing with South Koreans offering themselves as agents. *With AFP*

JUSTICE Reynato S. Puno, chair of the Senate Electoral Tribunal (center, with straw hat and glasses), with tribunal officials and employees, during a break while rendering community service at the Gawad Kalinga Project at Sitio Ruby, Fairview, Quezon City.

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Senate electoral tribunal turns 50

THE SENATE Electoral Tribunal (SET), the sole judge of all contests relating to the election of senators, marked its 50th anniversary last week with a week-long celebration capped by rendering community service at the Gawad Kalinga Project in Fairview, Quezon City.

Led by its chairman, Supreme Court Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno, the SET officials and employees laid concrete blocks, constructed plant boxes, did landscaping and hauled debris in the housing project sponsored by the Quezon City lcal government, ABS-CBN Foundation, Couple for Christ and the Ateneo de Manila University.

Puno also awarded certificates of recognition to SET employees for successfully undertaking various civic projects under the SET Fullness of Life Servicefest Program. The SET scrapped a planned dinner-dance with invited guests and instead held a simple program at the project site while undertaking the community service. Puno said this was consistent with the SET's austerity program and avowed value of prudence as he promised to arrange for more projects that would directly and concretely benefit the residents of Sitio Ruby in Fairview.

The SET is composed of Puno as chairman with Justices Leonardo A. Quisumbing and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, and Senators Juan M. Flavier, Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr., Manuel B. Villar Jr., Bong Revilla Jr., Jinggoy Estrada and Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. as members. Irene R. Guevarra is the secretary of the tribunal, while Jose Midas P. Marquez is the deputy secretary.

At present, the tribunal is hearing the election protest filed by former Sen. John R. Osmeña who landed 15th in the 2004 senatorial elections against Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon who landed 12th, with former senators Robert Z. Barbers and Ernesto M. Maceda, who landed 13th and 14th, respectively, as necessary protestees.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, April 15, 2005
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9:1-20
Gospel: John 6:52-59

The Jews were arguing among themselves, "How can this man give us flesh to eat?" So Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood live with eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.

"My flesh is really food and my blood is drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, live in me and I in them. Just as the Father, who is life, sent me and I have life from the Father, so whoever eats me will have life from me. This is the bread which came from heaven; unlike that of your ancestors, who ate and later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

Jesus spoke in this way in Capernaum when he taught them in the synagogue.

Commentary

Jesus first fed the crowds, 5,000 men, probably more than 25,000 in the desert and they were all satisfied, but they do not believe. Especially the leaders, keep trying to question Jesus on His words, ignoring his work and his presence, his power that comes from God the Father who sent him. His word, his life brings life and hope to all who hunger for more than survival (the poor) and all those who seek meaning and justice and life for all. Yet they refuse to accept him and what he says about his words, his teaching, that this is his body and blood—sustenance for life. His presence among them gives them life unbounded. We speak of these long passages as about Eucharist and they are, but they are first about Jesus' word, about his teaching on how to live and the Word of Scripture that is given to us for nourishment and sustenance on our journey. We become what we eat—we are the Body of Christ meant to be food for the earth. Are we this daily bread for others?

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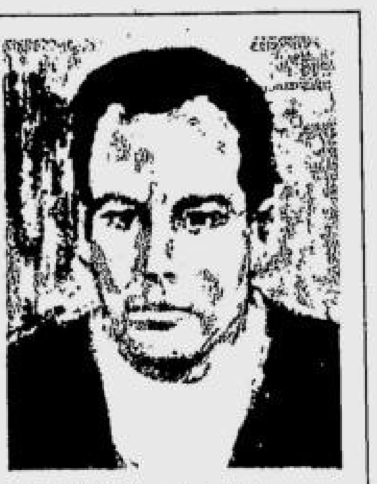
Olympics bomber pleads guilty



ARTIST'S sketch of Eric Rudolph. AFP

ATLANTA, Georgia—Eric Rudolph pleaded guilty Wednesday to bombing the 1996 Olympics and a US abortion clinic two years later, killing a police officer and wounding a nurse.

Rudolph, 38, also pleaded guilty to bombing a gay nightclub and two other family planning clinics and intended to bomb other targets, prosecutors said.

"Once we identified Rudolph and had him on the run, the bombings ended, saving who knows how many lives," US Attorney David Nahmias told reporters.

Rudolph, before Atlanta federal Judge Charles Pannell, pleaded guilty to the 1996 bombing of Olympic Park, in which one woman was killed and 111 people injured.

"I have deprived the government of its goals of sentencing me to death," Rudolph said in a political statement distributed afterward.

"The fact that I had entered an agreement with the government is purely a tactical choice on my part and in no way legitimates the moral authority of the government to judge this matter or to impute guilt."

Earlier Wednesday, Rudolph entered the Birmingham, Alabama courtroom of Judge Linwood Smith with a swagger, a red prison jumpsuit and a white T-shirt to face charges over the abortion clinic bombing.

While he showed respect to the judge by answering all questions directly, Rudolph seemed uninterested when details of the charges were read.

"Let me cut to the chase—did you plant the bomb on Jan. 29, 1998?" Linwood asked.

"Yes, your honor," Rudolph responded.

"Did you cause the bomb to explode?" Linwood asked.

"I certainly did," Rudolph responded.

Rudolph never made eye contact with the victims in the court and appeared to show no remorse.

Sentencing in both courts is scheduled for July 18, the birthday of Emily Lyon, the nurse wounded in the Birmingham blast.

In his 11-page manifesto, handed to the court by his attorneys, Rudolph said he wanted to blow up the power grid of the city of Atlanta to shut down the 1996 Olympics, to embarrass the US government over its support of abortion.

He had also planned originally to plant five bombs near Olympic sites, for the same reason.

On the last page of his statement, he tried to paint himself as a martyr who fought abortion.

In Atlanta, Greg Jones of the Federal Bureau of Investigation called Rudolph one of the FBI's "top-10 fugitives."

At the height of efforts to catch Rudolph, US officials fielded 250 federal agents, sniffer dogs and heat-seeking helicopters to flush Rudolph out of the North Carolina mountains. *AFP*

Twin Baghdad blasts kill 11

BAGHDAD—Two suicide car bombs killed 11 people in an attack on a police highway patrol in Baghdad Thursday, one of the deadliest strikes on the capital since Iraq's elections more than 10 weeks ago.

The powerful blasts, which sent plumes of black smoke into the air over Baghdad, came as the US government was scrambling to rescue a US hostage in the clutches of militants who want America to leave Iraq.

The bombs exploded at 10 a.m. in the southeastern Jadriyah district of the capital, near an interior ministry building, Baghdad University and the Australian Embassy.

"The car in front of me was hit and I saw one of my comrades lose his arm and another die," said distraught police officer Mohammed al-Dulaimi.

An AFP reporter at the scene saw five bodies, one of them a child, and seven cars completely destroyed, one engulfed in flames.

At least 11 people were killed and 35 wounded, most of them police, an interior ministry source said.

Stunned locals expressed rage over the worst single attack in Baghdad since February, which shattered hopes that the torrent of spectacular car bombings in the capital was a thing of the past.

"What sin did I commit?" said crying civilian Nazih Omar as US soldiers treated his burnt legs.

Angry shopkeepers sifted through the rubble. "Is this *jihad* (holy war)? How can we wage *jihad* against our own police force and people?" exclaimed Hussein Awad.

Outgoing interior minister Falah Naqib arrived at the scene visibly angry.

"It shows that the terrorists are getting desperate and our brave security forces are tightening the noose around them and that's why are targeting civilians more and more," he charged. *AFP*

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China calls Japan gas drilling a 'provocation'

BEIJING—China slammed Japan's decision to allow drilling for gas and oil in disputed waters as a "provocation" on Wednesday as ties strained by violent anti-Japan protests here continued to deteriorate.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Qin Gang said China has lodged a protest with Japan and "will retain the right to make further reaction."

"Japan has come up with a provocation to China's rights and the norm of international relations," he said, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Tokyo gave the go-ahead for exploratory drilling at the East China Sea site disputed by the two countries just days after the mass anti-Japanese protests here and despite China's warning that the move would "further escalate the situation."

Tens of thousands of Chinese took part in the weekend rallies, pelting the Japanese Embassy with bottles and cans and urging a boycott of Japanese goods, after Tokyo approved a history textbook which allegedly whitewashes its bloody wartime occupation of its Asian neighbors including China.

Japan and China, two of the world's biggest energy importers, have seen their relations persistently worsen. In November Japan formally protested after it spotted a Chinese nuclear submarine in the area of the gas fields, leading to a two-day chase.

China began drilling in 2003 at the disputed site in the East China Sea, which a 1999 Japanese survey estimated had a massive 200 billion cubic meters (seven trillion cubic feet) of gas.

Japan's ministry of economy, trade and industry said it would begin reviewing applications from companies which want to explore the Japanese exclusive economic zone of the fields—a delineation not recognized by China.

"It is a process. We will press forward accordingly," Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told reporters.

Asked if the move could further worsen relations with China, Koizumi said: "This is a separate matter."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told a separate news conference: "We have long discussed the exploration rights and already informed (China) about that. Now the time is ripe."

Asked if the gas issue would come up when Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura discusses the troubled relationship with his counterpart Li Zhaoxing in Beijing on Sunday, Hosoda said: "I think it's likely."

Machimura said Wednesday he may propose on Sunday a joint study group into their shared history, a move the foreign minister hopes could ease virulent anti-Japanese sentiment.

Japan and China have summoned each other's ambassadors and demanded an apology during the latest row. Tokyo wants compensation for the protests and Beijing believes Tokyo must do more to atone for its militarist past.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, speaking Tuesday in India, targeted Japan's cherished goal of a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, saying Tokyo needed to face up to its history before being admitted.

China has rejected Japanese efforts to mark a maritime border in the disputed part of the East China Sea, which may also hold oil along with gas.

AFP

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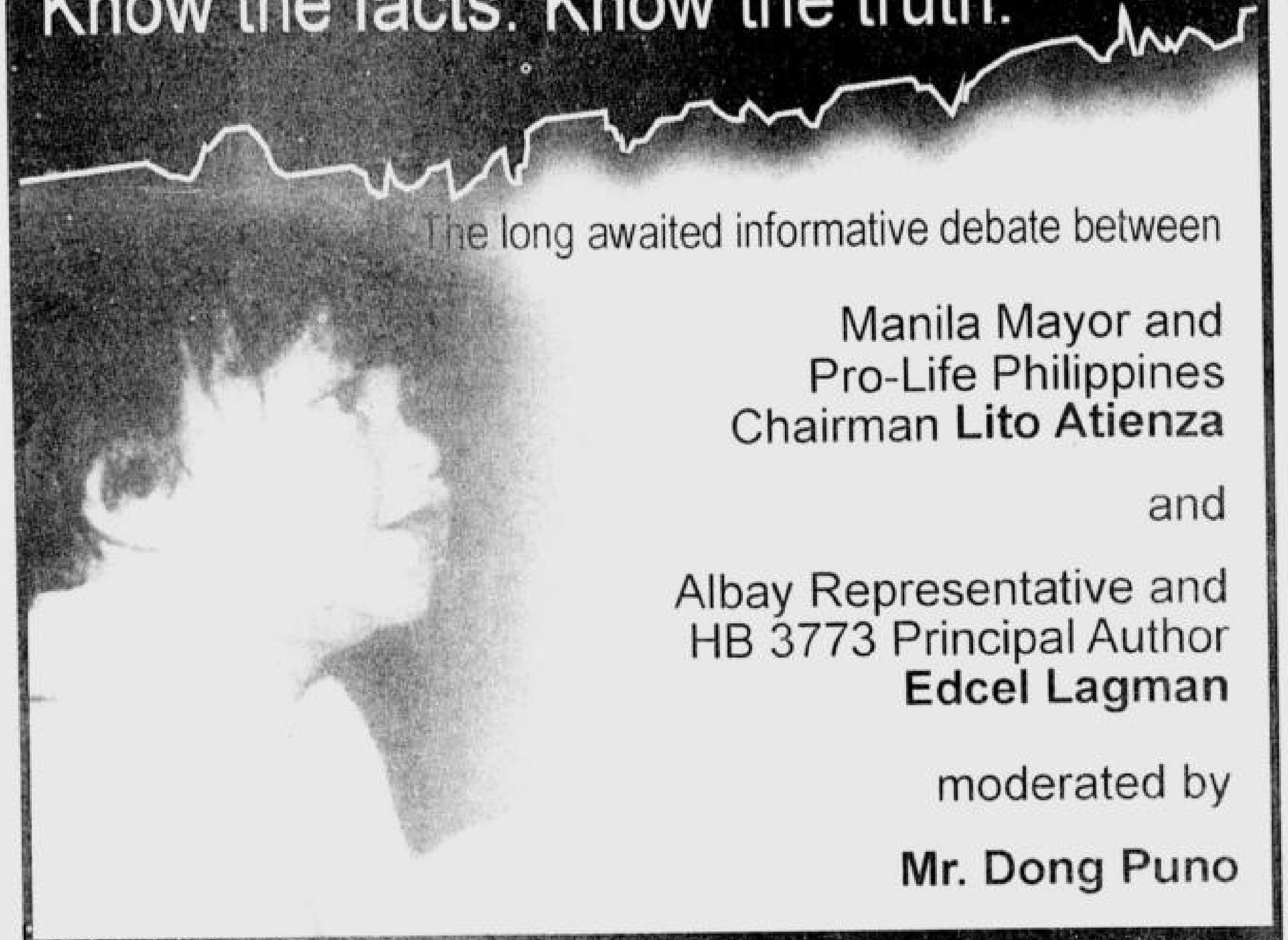

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and

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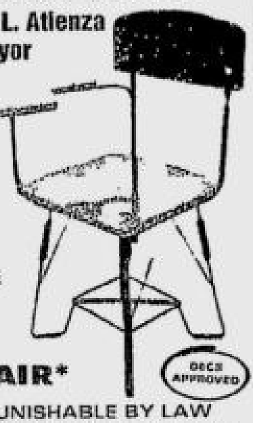

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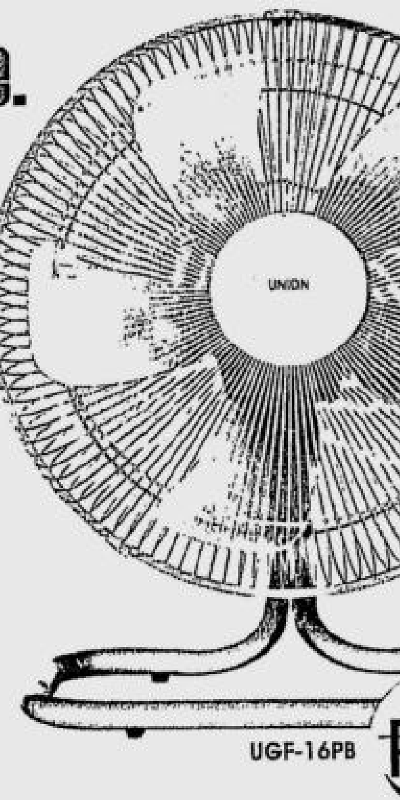

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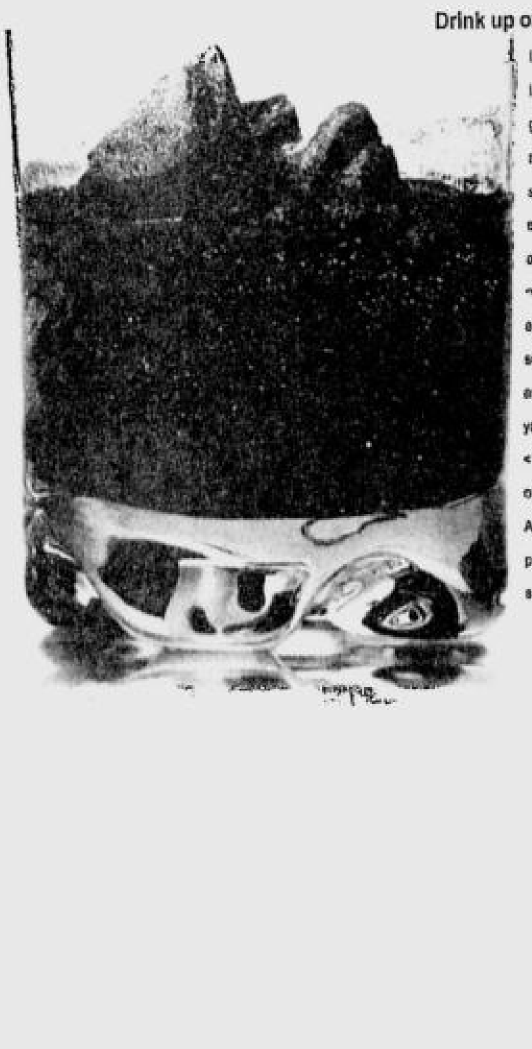

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INQUIRER WWF

US solons press new law to check sewage pollution from cruise ships

MIAMI—The cruise industry has gotten so big that all its ships together could hold each of Miami's 360,000 residents with room to spare. And just like cities, cruise lines have to deal with a nasty problem: the millions of gallons of sewage those people produce.

While the industry is installing equipment that one executive says makes sewage and other wastewater almost as "clean as Perrier," environmentalists, state officials and some members of Congress are pushing to toughen what they call outdated marine pollution standards.

They have worked on the Clean Cruise Ship Act with two environmental groups, the Bluewater Network and Oceana. Alaska, California and Maine have already passed stronger laws.

But the cruise industry argues the new standards aren't based on science and that most water pollution comes from sources on land. The industry is waiting for federal Environmental Protection Agency data due in a few months that will show how well the new treatment systems worked on waste water dumped in Alaska.

"Public policy dictates that we make good informed decisions based on science and not based on two polarized groups," said Michael Crye, president of the International Council of Cruise Lines, an industry group that represents companies like Carnival Corp. and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. He said complying with the bill would cost billions of dollars.

Currently, the federal Clean Water Act from the 1970s lets cruise ships dump raw sewage anywhere outside of a three-nautical mile limit from US shores. Inside that territorial water boundary, cruise ships can release sewage only after reducing its content of fecal coliform, a harmful bacteria found in human feces.

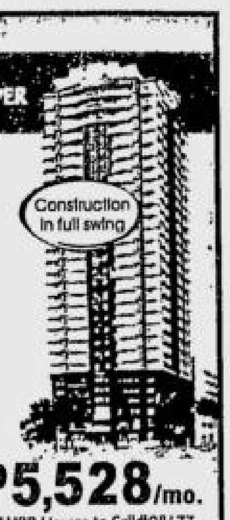
The industry group has voluntarily agreed to exceed those rules. It says member lines treat all sewage and discharge it only when ships are at least four nautical miles from shore and moving at least 6 knots to better disperse it. The same distances are used for the "gray water" drained from showers, sinks and washing machines. Each ship generates up to 1 million gallons of waste water per week.

Environmentalists argue that self-imposed rules aren't enough, calling the monitoring for compliance spotty, at best.

US Democrats Rep. Sam Farr, from California, and Sen. Richard Durbin, from Illinois, plan to reintroduce their bill Thursday in Congress, where it died last year after receiving little support. It would apply to cruise ships able to carry 250 passengers.

Under the act, cruise ships from 12 to 200 nautical miles from US coasts could discharge sewage, bilge water or other wastewater only if they are treated to reduce levels of fecal coliform and other pollutants to meet standards much stricter than current law.

Ships within 12 nautical miles of US shores couldn't release any treated or untreated wastewater. Cruise companies would have three years to meet the standards. By 2015, all pollutants would have to be eliminated from wastewater before dumping. The Coast Guard would test wastewater samples for compliance. *AP*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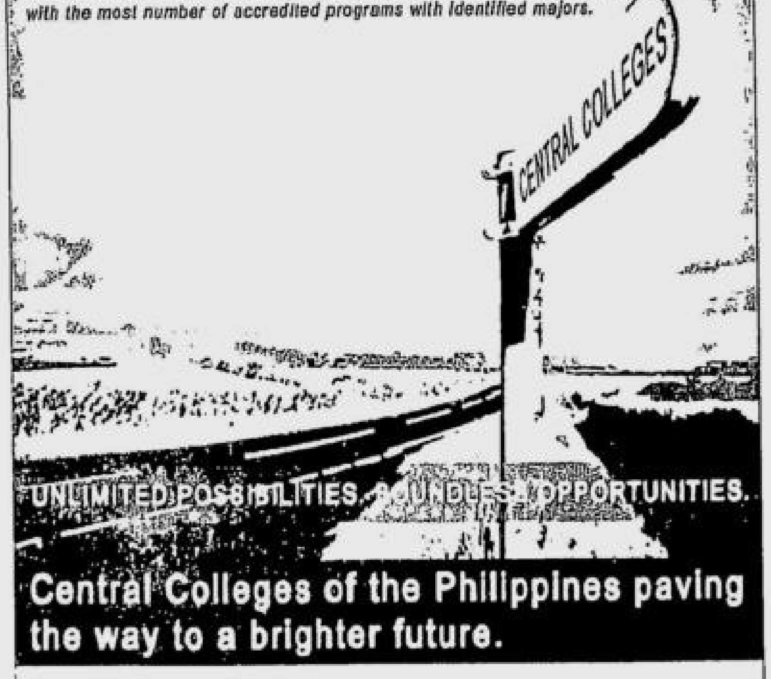
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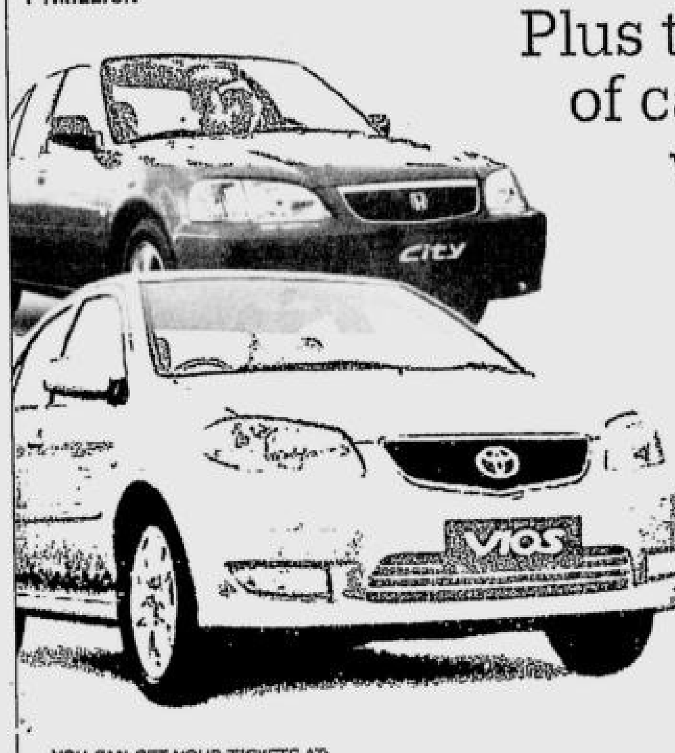
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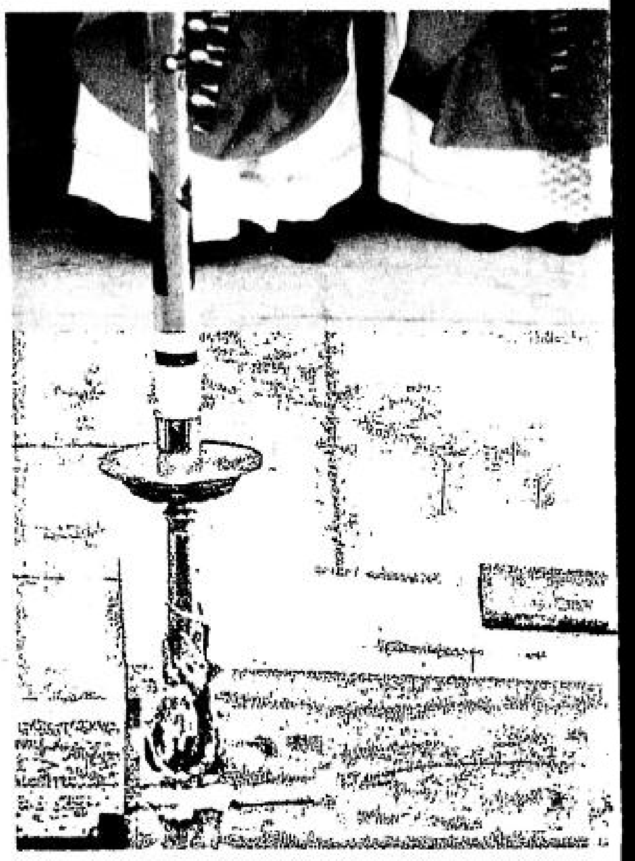

GERMAN Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger blessing the coffin of Pope John Paul II during his funeral mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican City April 8. Conservative Ratzinger, the guardian of Church doctrine under the late Pope and one of his closest confidants, has been reported to be getting growing support to be named as successor with only five days before the opening of a conclave on Monday. AFP

Germany's Cardina seen as front-runn

VATICAN CITY—Conservative German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger emerged as a frontrunner in the race to find John Paul II's successor Wednesday as thousands of pilgrims flocked to pay their respects at the tomb of the late Pope, open to the public for the first time since his burial.

With only five days remaining before the opening of a conclave next Monday Italian media reported growing support for Ratzinger, the guardian of Church doctrine under the Polish-born Pope and one of his closest confidants.

Meanwhile, thousands of pilgrims, some weeping, bore prayers and messages of love to the simple marble-slab tomb of as the Vatican opened the crypt of St. Peter's basilica shortly after dawn.

"It's moving to see him shut up in a tomb," said Rosa Sgarenella, from Bari in southern Italy, as she left the vaulted crypt.

"We remember him being so alive."

Mourners paused to pray before the grave—inscribed with his name in Latin, Joannes Paulus II, and the years of his life: 1920-2005—and ushers quietly prodded the stream of pilgrims to move along.

Sister Selka, an Indian nun of the Sisters of the Imitation of Christ order, said she had come "like Mary Magdalene who went to see Our Lord early in the morning," referring to the biblical account of the discovery of Jesus' resurrection.

John Paul II was interred Friday but Vatican officials agreed to wait until Wednesday to open the crypt. Italian authorities had requested the delay, fearing hundreds of thousands

No health threat from leth

WASHINGTON—A fierce strain of flu virus sent to many US labs has not made anyone sick and authorities have detected no evidence of a health threat, officials said on Wednesday.

But more than 4,000 laboratories mostly in the United States have been asked to document that they destroyed samples of the H2N2 flu virus strain they were sent as part of a test, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

"Right now we have no evidence of any health threat to anyone in the community... but we are erring on the side of caution," CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding told a news conference in Atlanta.

Gerberding also said it was "almost impossible to believe" the US company that distributed the virus had done so unknowingly and the health agency was investigating.

Earlier in Geneva, senior World Health Organization scientist Dr. Klaus Stohr said the virus, which killed between 1 million and 4 million people in 1957, did not pose a major risk to public health. He also criticized Cincinnati, Ohio-based Meridian Bioscience for distributing it.

"It was an unwise decision to send it out," said Stohr, who heads the United Nations health agency's influenza program.

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al Ratzinger
ner in pope race

of followers in Rome for his funeral would remain to visit the tomb.

The 140 cardinals have imposed strict secrecy on their meetings, even before the 115 of them aged under-80 go into conclave to vote on Monday.

On Wednesday, they decided to extend the secrecy requirement to doctors and nurses, technicians, kitchen and cleaning staff, drivers and even liftboys who will form the supporting cast to the theatre of the conclave.

But despite the secrecy, the Italian media is alive with prognostications—fueled by leaks—about the voting patterns which will decide the identity of the next pope.

La Repubblica daily said Ratzinger could already count on at least 40, if not 50, votes from among the 115 cardinal electors who will take part in the conclave. To be elected, a candidate must win two-thirds of the vote, or 77 votes.

At 78, Ratzinger is seen as a possible "transition" pope since he is one of the oldest candidates.

La Repubblica reported the German has the support of several Latin American cardinals, as well as two powerful Italians, Cardinals Camillo Ruini and Angelo Sodano—both seemingly intent of scuttling the chances of fellow Italian Dionigi Tettamanzi.

The Corriere della Sera newspaper reported that Ratzinger was also benefitting from the fact that his opponents have for the time being failed to agree on another candidate.

Most Church leaders hope for a short conclave, according to Italian media.

Cardinals are eager to project an image of unity by electing a pope as early as Wednesday or Thursday, the daily Il Messaggero wrote Wednesday. *AFP*

al flu strain, officials say

The laboratories, however, which are sent viruses and bacteria to test their ability to detect strains, are experienced in handling such material and most had already been alerted to the danger, so there was little chance of anyone catching it, he said.

"It is a risk, but it is considered low. It should not lead to a big scare," Stohr said.

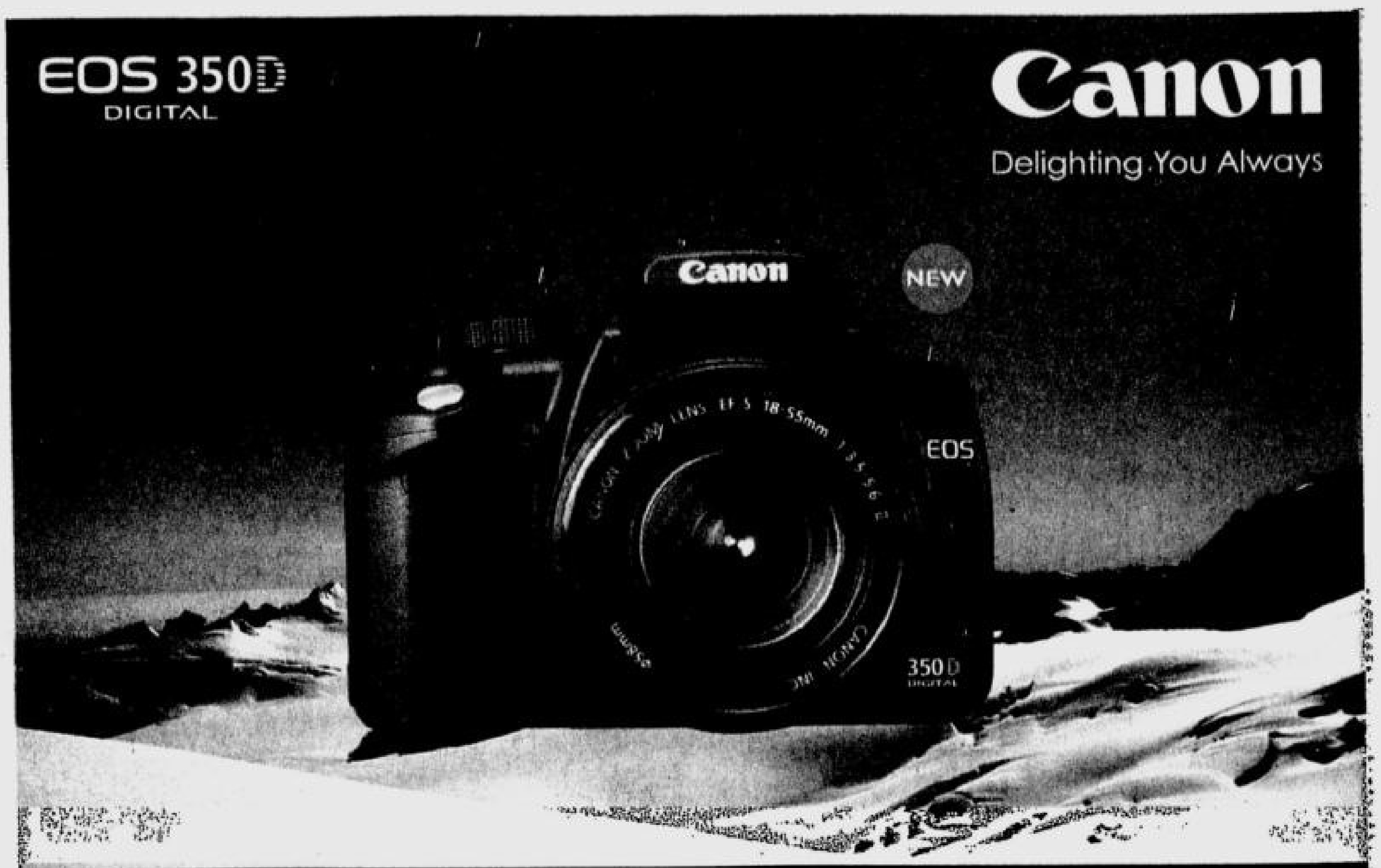
The problem with the 1957 H2N2 virus was that nobody born after 1968 would have any immunity to it.

Gerberding said the CDC was checking to see if anyone had ever caught flu or another infection from of the so-called proficiency panels. "I am not aware of any," she said.

And it was unlikely that any H2N2 shipped to the labs had escaped. "If an unusual flu virus had emerged, we would certainly know about it by now," she said.

Meridian Bioscience said it had violated no rules and was working on contract to the College of American Pathologists.

"Such samples are used by professional laboratories accustomed to handling viral agents. The company has a long history of supplying samples to the (College of American Pathologists) and believes it has been and is in compliance with all applicable regulations," it said in a statement. *Reuters*



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OPINION

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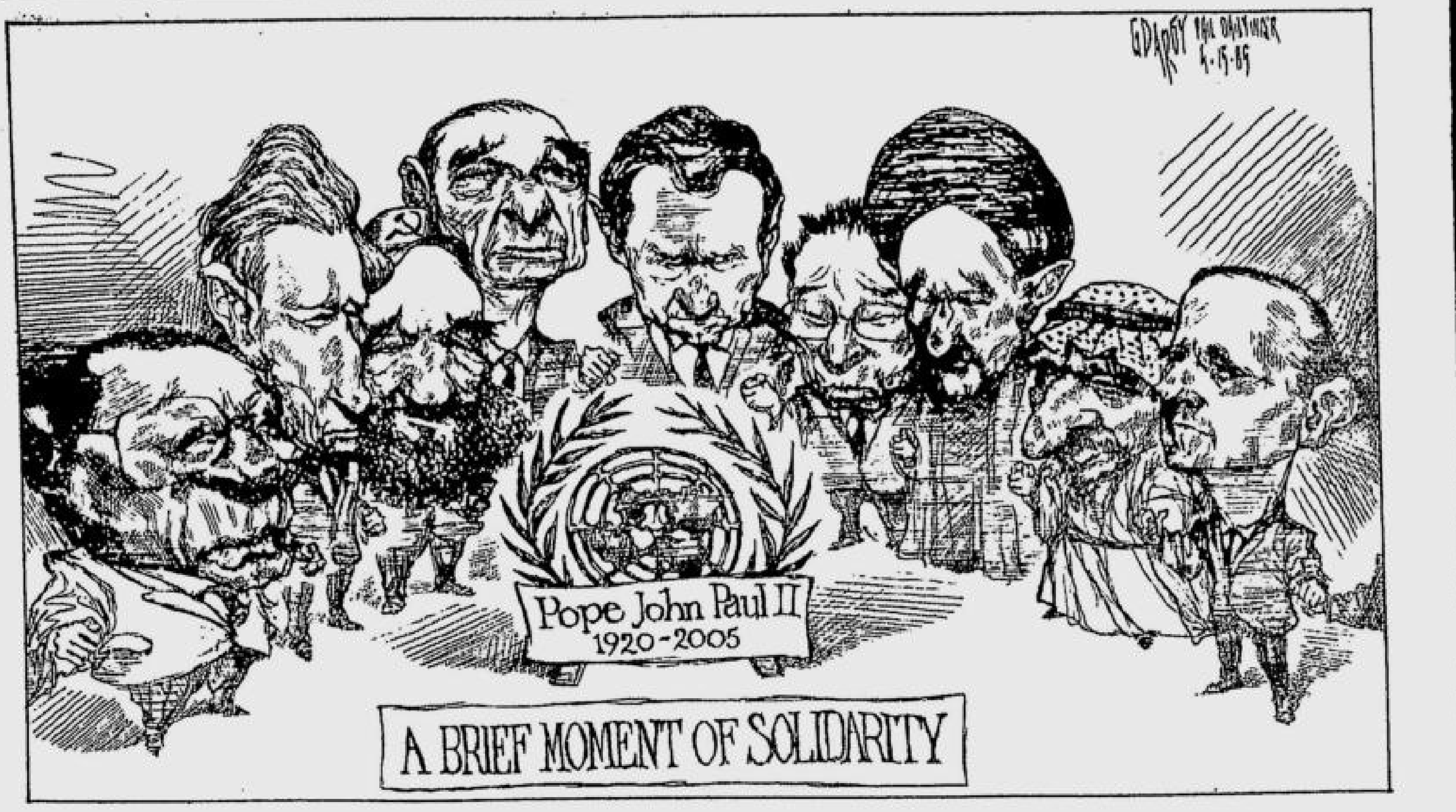
Pope John Paul II
1920-2005
A BRIEF MOMENT OF SOLIDARITY

Reyes' sweeping act

EDITORIAL

LAST September, the INQUIRER ran a series of stories concerning private armed groups reportedly maintained by warring politicians in the province of Abra. The top man of the Philippine National Police then, Director General Edgardo Aglipay, always responsive to the media, ordered the deployment of the PNP's elite anti-terrorism team, the Special Action Force, to that province to dismantle the private armies. Among the police top brass involved in the planning was Director General Arturo Lomibao, Aglipay's successor as PNP chief.

Lomibao has been ordered by Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes to dismiss the entire Abra police force. Reyes' order came in the wake of a fact-finding team's report that the present provincial police force in Abra has been inept, and that the private armies maintained by local government executives were behind the incidents of violence in the province. The fact-finders expressed belief that most of the policemen assigned to the province have been acting as bodyguards-for-hire for politicians.

What is remarkable is that it took a month for Reyes to order an investigation and act, even as the scandalous peace and order situation in Abra has given PNP chiefs past and present much headache for almost a year now. The INQUIRER's September 2004 reports revealed a situation dating back at least to the May 2004 elections.

Reyes, never known to be a modest man, says his action is unprecedented in scale: 529 policemen in Abra have been affected, as well as all the local executives whose powers of operational control and supervision over the police have been suspended. For once, we believe Reyes has a right to brag and, indeed, be commended for a definite demonstration of political will.

Reyes' action is authorized under the law, specifically, Republic Act No. 8851, which provides that the National Police Commission (which he chairs) has the authority to withhold deputized police powers on the grounds of abuse of power and committing acts inimical to the government.

Nothing could be more inimical to the government than the police being a party to corruption, violent intimidation, murder and anarchy. But beyond reshuffling incompetent and crooked officers, the PNP must ensure that sanctions are meted out to policemen who are involved in such crimes.

In fact, the government should go further. Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. would do well to take some hints from what his Cabinet colleague has done, and determine if action needs to be taken by his department, as well. The 41st Infantry Battalion, which has around 500 men, based in that province's Lagangilang town, has a commander, Lt. Col. Noel Mislang, who has been implicated in the killing of Army Corporal Antonio Rosqueta Jr. on Dec. 22, 2004: a killing allegedly masterminded by Abra Gov. Vicente Valera. Such accusations require serious scrutiny; Reyes' clean police sweep in Abra indicates as well the need for a military review of its forces on the ground.

Meanwhile, Senior Supt. Danilo Empedrad has been named the new Abra provincial police commander. Empedrad said he will assume his new duties today, together with several officers of the PNP Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). But he also said that the entire Abra police force will be replaced in two weeks. We need to ask Empedrad if that isn't too long a time.

Reyes' order sent shock waves throughout the PNP, and left a strong favorable impression in the public mind. Any sign of foot-dragging on the part of the PNP could irredeemably harm its prospects of fully reestablishing law and order in the province and could disappoint the public.

During the time that the new PNP apparatus has yet to get in place, what is to prevent politicians—and the policemen in their pay—from taking revenge against their enemies, real or imagined? What is there to stop more assassination attempts? Who will protect the public as the disgraced police force waits to be replaced? Two weeks is too much time for more crooked deals, for more scandalous accommodations, for more ghastly killings.

People want to see that Reyes' action on the Abra police is not just a flash in the pan but an act of political will; or that it is not just hot air rising from the silence that has enveloped the graves of murdered victims in Abra.

They want to see many more such sweeping moves against erring policemen as the one we recently have seen in Abra.

Why pre-need companies fail

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ANOTHER educational plan seller was reported yesterday to have gone belly-up, which calls to mind the company that started it all, the College Assurance Plan.

What causes pre-need companies to go brankrupt after amassing so much money? I dusted off the report of the Securities and Exchange Commission on CAP to find out just what went wrong so that other companies can avoid the same pitfalls.

First of all, the government deregulated the school tuition. It allowed the schools to increase tuition as high and as often as they would want. As the deregulation of the downstream oil industry has shown, total and unfettered deregulation is a recipe for disaster. Greed always gets the better of private corporations—private schools not exempted—which they satisfy by preying on their victims, the public.

Millions of parents have bought educational plans. For those too poor to afford it, or lucky enough not to buy any, here is a primer on educational plans:

Essentially, it is like an insurance policy. You buy a plan now for future needs. You pay a certain amount in installments for a plan that, when it matures, will supposedly ensure the payment of the child's tuition needs. The preneed company, on the other hand, invests the money collected in high-yielding and safe investments so that when the time comes there will be plenty of funds for the tuition needs of planholders.

The increasing needs of the planholders are carefully estimated to make sure that the growth of the investments do not fall behind the tuition increases. For as long as the increases were regulated by the government, they were kept under control.

But when the government, bending to pressure from schools, deregulated tuition, all hell broke loose. Tuition rose by leaps and bounds, throwing askew all the estimates of the preneed companies. Some of the companies immediately saw the impending disaster and immediately stopped selling plans. But others, like CAP, decided to honor their commitments to their planholders and relied on payments from new planholders to fund the needs of maturing plans.

In the case of CAP, it put much of its funds in real estate development because, at the time, real estate was the surest thing. It relied on the popular belief that come hell or high water or war, land will not disappear, and its price always goes up, never down.

But CAP erred. The price of real estate went down. When the Asian economic crisis struck, the bottom fell out of the real estate market. Many developers lost their shirts; the building boom ground to a halt.

Had land prices not dropped, CAP would still be able to pay its obligations, maybe. While its checks were bouncing right and left, CAP remained hopeful that the value of its real estate investments would bounce back, enough to get the company out of its hole. No such luck. That is the pitfall of putting your money in solid but illiquid investments.

But that was not the only mistake of CAP. According to the report of the SEC special oversight board on CAP, the company has been investing its trust fund in companies or investments "owned or controlled by CAP's owners."

"The corporation (CAP) made unprofitable and questionable investments in real estate, shares of stock and other long gestation ventures in the Fil-Estate Group, a related company," said the SEC. "These investments, which were later contributed to the trust fund, failed miserably to realize the desired rates of return.

"The wrong mix of investments was aggravated even more by CAP's acquisition from related parties of some investments at apparently questionable prices such as the Fil-Estate Management Inc. shares of stock," the board added.

In short, CAP collected money from planholders, but it did not put the money in the safest and most profitable investments so that the money could grow fast enough to meet future obligations. The self-dealing contributed greatly to CAP's financial problems.

According to the SEC report, only about P85 million of CAP's trust fund is liquid. It has an estimated annual tuition obligation of P2.5 billion. A separate SEC report puts the total amount of CAP's bounced checks at P150 million as of October last year.

To quote from a recent SEC audit report: "CAP as a corporation is insolvent. Assets were reported at P18.5 billion while liabilities were reported at P23.9 billion, thereby resulting in a P5.4 billion deficiency."

Another SEC finding concerns CAP's "excessive operating expenses."

A SEC audit report even concluded that "the high operating costs of CAP are demonstrated by the comparative analysis of its costs in relation to those of other comparative pre-need companies. CAP and CAP Pension combined have relatively high costs in the following expense categories: commissions, salaries, insurance expense, board remuneration, and training and development."

"The last expense (training and development) included the payment of royalties to the major stockholders who are also the controlling directors," the audit report added.

CAP also paid unusually large commissions to its sales agents. CAP was paying its agents as much as 20 percent in plan sales commissions, or double the 10-percent ceiling imposed by the SEC.

As CAP spent more money for commissions and other operating expenses, less money (coming from or paid by the planholders) was being put in the trust fund that is supposed to guarantee benefit payments.

Finally, CAP's high operating costs included P11 million in unbudgeted bank charges due to the bouncing checks it issued in just seven months.

The human side of winning

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

JANUARY A. Sanchez received from the University of the Philippines her BA in Political Science magna cum laude, and her LL.B. cum laude, receiving the Dean's Medal for Academic Excellence. She was high school valedictorian at the V. Mapa High School in Manila, and was a working student at UP in college. She did legal research at the Department of Foreign Affairs and worked on migrant workers' rights with the NGO named Kaibigan. In law school, she enrolled in the evening section for working students while working with then Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge (now Court of Appeals Justice) Vicente Q. Roxas. She got married during her second year in law school and persisted in her law studies through pregnancy and childbirth without skipping a single semester. Her husband Jay (they were political science classmates in college), who works at the HUDCC, would often pick her up at Malcolm Hall when her classes ended, and they would drive together to their home in Sta. Maria, Bulacan. She is currently an associate with ACCRA law offices.

During UP's testimonial rites, Jary tearfully dedicated her triumph to her mother, while son Jacob Gabriel, now 4 years old, was totally oblivious to the fact that his mom had just topped the Philippine bar exams and chose to play video games on his dad's cell phone.

Ronald P. de Vera went to high school and college at the Ateneo in Loyola, and received his law degree from UP, where he received the Dean's Medal for Academic Excellence. As a law student, he was a member of the Society for Environmental Awareness and Lawyering (SEAL), and of the public interest legal aid group, the Paralegal Volunteers Organization. Ronald did summer internships at the ACCRA law offices and the Office of the Solicitor General, where he responded to Sonny Marcelo's call for student volunteers on the ill-gotten wealth cases. He had earlier gone to Portland, Oregon as a Rotary scholar. He plays underwater hockey, and sings for the Christ the King choir. He is currently an associate at Castillo Laman Tan Pantaleon & San Jose. His mom Lilia started law studies when Ronald was already in college; she became a lawyer at the age of 60, when Ronald's elder sister Anna was a first year law student at UP.

Joseph Joemer C. Perez was class valedictorian from grade school all the way to law school. He attended the San Jose Academy in Navotas for grade school and high school, received his political science degree from UP, magna cum laude, and graduated at the top of his law class. After his second year, he did a summer internship at the Quisumbing Torres law office. Joemer was on the editorial board of the Philippine Law Journal (or PLJ), the oldest academic law journal in the country and, as far as I know, the country's only law journal exclusively run by students. Upon graduation, he won all-around honors: for academics, the Dean's Medal and the UP Law Class of 1972 Award for Excellence in Academics; for legal aid, the Outstanding Law Intern Award; and for research and writing, the Generoso V. Jacinto Prize in Remedial Law (for "Re-Examining and Liberalizing the Class Suit Device," published in the PLJ). He now works with Poblador Bautista & Reyes, which is ranked internationally as one of the country's best litigation firms. His classmate and fiancée, Anna Nerissa Paz, is among this year's new lawyers.

Neil Simon S. Silva received the Roberto Sabido Prize for best thesis, entitled "Bin Laden's War: Jus Ad Bellum in the Age of International Terrorism" (referring to the old "Just War" theory being revived in the anti-terror "crusade"). He also received the Dean's Medal. Neil came from the Philippine Science High School, entered UP as an Oblation Scholar (meaning, he ranked in the top 50 among 65,000 college applicants). He initially majored in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology but, typical of science prodigies, soon tired of the exactness of the sciences and found space for the soul in English Studies, where he graduated with a 1.68 average. He was an oralist of the moot court team sent to the Jean Pictet International Moot Court in France, and tied for 1st place with Cambridge University. He now works with Sycip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan. He grew up in Meycauayan, Bulacan. Neil sings with the law school's choir, named Charivari. At their mini-concert, I enjoyed listening to Neil do mean solo of The Platters' "Only You." For Neil, as with many Charivari alumni, the singing ranks high up there among one's law school achievements.

Jary, Ronald, Joemer and Neil are among the jubilant examinees who will take the attorney's oath on April 29. If there is one thing that marks them, it is not that they merely bested 4,500 other candidates in a month-long ordeal spread over eight major subjects. It is that they came from simple families with simple dreams for their children, and that they rose above life's challenges by being inspired by causes larger than the self. Aspiring lawyers err when they think that their craft is only about regurgitating rules. No, each of these "topnotchers" had a life outside the classroom. It was that life that kept the flame aglow, just as the true craftsman thrives only in communion with his public. It now falls upon the law firms where they work to let their legal genius blossom, while leaving them space to flourish as dreamers *pro bono publico*. Holmes said: "The goal of the law school is not to make men smart but to make them wise in their calling." The race indeed goes to the swiftest and the strongest, but they run best who hearken law's noble calling.

* * *

Comments to raulcp@info.com.ph

Survey warnings and conditions

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE SENATE approved on Wednesday its version of the expanded value-added tax, breaking a five-month long legislative stalemate over the remaining key revenue-raising measures proposed by the administration to combat the debt and fiscal crisis. The fact alone that the Senate has made up its mind—after an anguishing search of what its members consider to be a result of the best informed examination of the VAT bill—should allow the nation to breathe with some relief. The pain of suspenseful waiting has finally come to an end.

The Senate version is not any closer to the House version of the VAT bill than it was some two months ago, when the stand-off began. The Senate bill retains the 10-percent VAT rate, in stark contrast to the 12-percent rate proposed by the administration and approved by the House. This is just one of the numerous glaring differences between the two bills, but it foreshadows another tortuous round—the next stage of producing a law: the process of reconciling the Senate and House versions of the tax proposal in the bicameral conference committee—before it goes to the President for signature. In the bicameral conference committee, the bill will be mangled by compromises beyond recognition before it will take its final shape.

Although it is far from clear whether the five-month long stalemate has produced the "credible" VAT reform legislation desired by the second paper of the UP 11 (to justify the delay), the Senate bill has certainly a strong populist accent, with a surprise provision exempting more than 16.2 million households or residential consumers from the 10-percent VAT on power. The Senate bill was riddled with exemptions which pained the academics who had sought a less complicated and more straightforward VAT legislation, and the exemptions tacked into the bill are likely to cause leakages that could diminish the revenue production. Some senators believe that the Senate version could raise P60 billion at 70-percent collection efficiency and up to P80 billion at 100-percent collection efficiency, despite the exemptions.

The Senate bill was approved with a 14-6 vote, doubtless a strong majority. But the more significant aspect of the vote is that the 14 who voted for the e-VAT measure included administration and opposition members, among them the best informed members of the Senate, such as Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Edgardo Angara and Sergio Osmeña, who subjected the bill to close scrutiny .

Approval came following a public opinion survey the results of which found that the public was prepared to take the hard medicine of tax reform, a finding that should give comfort to the administration and the members of Congress. At this point, they should feel confident that they can push for tough measures without incurring public retribution.

The value of the March 2005 survey of Pulse Asia is to inform reform-minded government officials, as well as legislators regardless of whether or not they are administration supporters, that there is so much myth in the popular notion that tough tax bills are politically incorrect initiatives that could redound to loss of popularity.

According to the survey on the VAT bill, which generated intense public debate, "a large majority of Filipinos (68 percent) would accept increases provided government reduces corruption and waste in it spending." Also significant is the finding that 42 percent would accept the taxes if "its negative impact on the poor is not too large," and that 41 percent would accept it if "government first removes tax exemptions for favored corporations and sectors of the economy," and if the BIR and Customs "improve their revenue collections."

These findings give a warning and impose conditions, putting on probation the administration's ability to deliver its part of a trade-off as a condition for public support of its tax reforms.

The findings show that there was a strong public perception that the executive and legislative departments were not cooperating enough to solve the fiscal crisis. In response to the survey statement, "The President and Congress have been cooperating effectively to address a fiscal crisis," 25 percent of Filipinos agreed; in contrast, three-fourths of Filipinos either agreed or were undecided.

The survey also showed that only 21 percent of Filipinos agreed that "it can be said that the government has already succeeded in staving off the fiscal crisis, 30 percent were undecided and a larger number (49 percent) disagreed.

Thirty percent agreed in March that the government has effective programs to address the fiscal and debt crisis. Providing comfort to the government is the finding that 38 percent disagreed that the fiscal crisis was "just an excuse to get ordinary people to accept higher taxes," while 31 percent agreed and 31 percent were undecided.

Women of Negros

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ON MY last trip to Bacolod a few weeks ago, Celia Flor, the executive director of Dawn Foundation and a former city councilor, drove me by the Women's Leadership and Trade Center which was then undergoing last-minute touches before its inauguration.

Even then, I found the one-story structure bright and welcoming, with a roomy hall for training sessions and conferences, as well as generous office space for the staff. The Center is the fruit of years of advocacy for women's issues, as well as of collaboration between the provincial government of Negros Occidental and women's organizations at both the local and national level.

The Center stands on provincial government property, which it is leasing under a 10-year renewable contract. Funds for the construction of the Center were sourced from Abanse! Pinay, the women's party-list group. As envisioned, the Center will provide a venue for the development and training of women leaders from all over the province for more active participation in local governance. It will also provide a meeting place for women and other sectors. At the same time, the Center will house a library on gender and development issues as well as a showroom for products of various livelihood projects for women.

But even before the Center was formally inaugurated, the women of Dawn Foundation were already nursing other dreams for it. For instance, said Celia, they plan to open an outdoor café, with clientele mainly from nearby government offices, including the Philippine Mental Health Association and the Hall of Justice.

I was confident that the women of Dawn, as well as its allies in groups like the Provincial Council of Women, the Bacolod Consortium of Women's Organizations, the Media Advocates for Reproductive Health and Empowerment (Marhe), would be able to bring these dreams to fruition. They were, after all, the same women who had successfully lobbied with the Bacolod city government for the establishment of the Women's Center, which provides counseling and temporary shelter for women survivors of violence.

* * *

SO when the invitation came for me to grace the blessing and inauguration of the Women's Leadership and Trade Center, I felt no hesitation whatsoever to accept it, even if it meant another "lightning trip"—an early-morning flight to Bacolod, then back to Manila in the evening.

The sun was high by the time I got to the Center for the ribbon-cutting, with Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon, Bacolod Mayor Evelio "Bing" Leonardia, Dawn Foundation president Andrea Lizares Si, and Flor, with the blessing rites performed by Fr. Jonas Sumagaysay.

What made the occasion even warmer was the presence of so many women leaders from around the province, even from the most distant towns. There were women mayors and vice mayors, provincial board members, councilors, barangay chairwomen and council members, most of whom had at one time or another undergone training in leadership and governance under Dawn and other allied groups.

The blessing occasioned a flashback to my first visit to Bacolod in the early 1980s, at the height of the sugar crisis, when everybody was saying the slumbering social volcano was about to blow. But the feared eruption never came, thanks in large part to the cooperation of all sectors, including and especially the women who brought their skills and energies to rebuild their shattered economy. With the Center, I'm sure the women of Negros will play an even bigger role in their province's development and their society's transformation.

* * *

MY friends from Bacolod then took the opportunity to take me to the ongoing "Pana-ad sa Negros Festival" which is held every April.

"*Pana-ad*" (Hiligaynon for a vow and its fulfillment) is both a trade fair and province-wide fiesta, showcasing the products, local industries and tourism sites of each of the six cities and 26 municipalities in Negros Occidental. Since 1998, it has been held at the Pana-ad Park, adjacent to the stadium and swimming complex built for the Palarong Pambansa. It is here, beneath a canopy of tall, leafy eucalyptus trees planted on the eight-hectare property that the booths can be found. Among the more notable booths: Talisay City, which is modeled on the famous Lizares mansion; Victorias City, which is a miniature version of its City Hall; and Ilog, which has a gigantic crab on its entrance, symbolizing its rich seafood resources.

It was at the Ilog booth, a large open pavilion, that Celia and I, with Dawn staffers and Mate Espina of Marhe, had a most unusual *merienda* of shrimps and oysters, though sadly they had already run out of the famous crabs that Celia had been hankering for. On the way to the pavilion, we also stopped for some luscious frozen fruit shakes, made right before our eyes, and using only the freshest watermelon and avocado.

* * *

THE BEST time to visit the Pana-ad Festival, I was told, is in the evening, when huge crowds stroll through the grounds and gather to listen to bands and even entertainment acts brought in from Manila by corporate sponsors.

But even if I had dropped by in the middle of the day, I still felt the infectious spirit of the province, the air filled with the rhythm of competing drum corps and pep squads. Against my will, I also ended up loaded down with all sorts of products, from the famous *puto* of Manapla, dried fish and squid, handicraft items and even beaded flip flops created by women artisans. The Dawn women also gave me a few kilos of cooked crabs, which my family enjoyed for dinner that night—and the next night, as *relleno*.

The visit lasted only a day, but the memories and the food will last much longer!

The Pope in my mind

HIGH BLOOD

Minyong Ordoñez

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

MY images of Pope John Paul II will always remain vivid in my mind. Each one of them is rich in apostolic symbols and charismatic impact, they deepen my Catholic faith even more.

His holiness was in our midst in 1995, during the 10th World Youth Day in Manila, a phenomenal event which attracted four million people, the biggest audience in the world ever to greet a pope.

My wife and I were fortunate to be at the cavernous PICC auditorium where he gave an audience. The PICC was bursting to the seams. We were seated near the right side exit, waiting for him to arrive. Everyone expected him to enter the auditorium through the main door which proceeded straight down the center stage. We craned our necks toward that direction at the slightest commotion.

Suddenly the side exit door beside our seats swung open where a white-robed figure stood before us, back-lighted by the soft sun glistening like a halo. He was smiling at me. His eyes sparkled like a baby's eyes.

Oh my God, it's him! The Pope!

Slowly, he turned and walked taking the side aisle to proceed to center stage. The entire huge assembly was taken by surprise at his unexpected entrance by the side exit door.

Upon realizing the Pope's presence, the crowd burst into a thunderous applause. John Paul waved gently at the crowd.

He was so lovable! He smiled at the crowd, but all felt that his smile was for each one of us—alone.

He was so holy! It was magical. The way he reached into our hearts as he passed by. Just like Jesus Christ casting his spell on the crowd as he walked the streets of Galilee.

Another image of John Paul is equally moving. It is a color photograph which appeared on the front page of the INQUIRER in the last week of March 2005, 10 years after my unforgettable PICC papal encounter.

The photograph shows a physically debilitated Pope. His shoulder is hunched as if in pain. His eyes are closed in intense meditation. For support, he holds with both hands on to his pastoral staff cum crucifix, the scriptural symbol of the Good Shepherd.

It struck me that on John Paul's crooked shoulder was placed the heaviest load caused by the ills of our times; practical materialism that prioritizes pleasures in lieu of human virtues; the creeping disregard for Catholic doctrines, and disobedience toward the very doctrines that kept the Catholic Church durable—and true to the teachings of the apostles and sacred traditions institutionalized under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We are aware of that heavy load on John Paul's shoulders. He valiantly spoke against the evil of modern times, the malaise which he described in strong words as "the culture of death," which promotes abortion, contraception, euthanasia, etc., acts that defy the fundamental tenets on the sanctity of life.

On the crises that beset the priesthood, Pope John Paul insisted that celibacy is an act of supernatural love and loyalty, not a stumbling block to priestly holiness and sacrifice.

John Paul consistently admonished world leaders to solve the problems of injustice, to put a stop to deaths of innocent victims of violence, and to alleviate poverty.

Every time war broke out among nations, the Pope's hunched shoulders became more crooked, especially if the war involved conflicts in religion.

CNN's non-stop coverage of John Paul's last moments in his Vatican quarters—from the time his condition became so critical up to his last dying breath—was brilliant in content, format and execution. All the world owes CNN a big debt of gratitude for combining substance and style in its coverage.

During the dying moments of Pope John Paul, I confirmed once more the authenticity of the papacy, traceable to St. Peter the apostle whom Christ appointed as the first pontiff with these words:

"Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates
of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give thee
the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever thou shalt bind on
earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever thou shalt loose on
earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19)

CNN showed us the magnitude of the Catholic world, more than one billion in size, from all corners of the world, praying as one. How the youth adored John Paul. They gathered at St. Peter's Square in big groups, strumming their guitars, singing glorious songs.

As John Paul lay dying, how deeply we felt love and gratitude for our pilgrim Pope. He is the single most eloquent defender of the morality of human and divine acts during our critical crossover to the digital age.

We felt extremely proud of being a Catholic. Thanks to John Paul II.

The Pope's last gesture was to lift his feeble hand to bless us. His last word was "Amen," the word that compliments every prayer. He was Christ-like till the end.

Thank you John Paul for your special concern and love for us Filipinos.

Thank you for praying for us.

Most of all, thank you for the unforgettable eye-contact at PICC in 1995.

Minyong Ordoñez, 69, is chair of Publicis Manila Inc.

Two mothers

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

MAKE every mother and child count. That was the theme of this year's World Health Day, which is celebrated each year on April 7. This year it passed unnoticed, overshadowed by the Pope's death and funeral.

Maybe, too, the theme just didn't catch the media's imagination. It's hard doing stories around maternal and child health. We're gripped by stories of diseases like SARS because the threat seems so imminent. In 2004, the one SARS death involving a Filipina, who had contracted the disease in Canada, got much more media coverage than the 55,000 infants who died that year in the Philippines from various health problems; and the 4,000 Filipinas whose lives were claimed by pregnancy-related conditions.

I won't go into detailed statistics here and will instead share with you two stories that personally affected me and which I hope will remind readers about the issues on maternal and child health.

Botched

The first mother I never met; I came to know of her from a friend. I hadn't seen him for several years and ran into him accidentally. He was gaunt and distraught, but I went through the ritual of asking how he was doing, and how his family was. He was direct to the point: "My wife died last year." The answer shocked me because he was only 25, certainly not an age to be a widower.

Over beer, I listened to his horror story. In different circumstances, the pregnancy—the wife's first—would have been a joyful event, but this was unplanned. His wife was about to graduate from dental school, and they had high hopes about the future, of migrating to the United States where the wife had relatives. After much agonizing, they decided on an abortion.

They went through the usual route asking around in front of the basilica in Quiapo. They tried the herbs—"*pampabalik ng regla*" (to "induce" menstruation)—but the concoctions didn't work. The vendors told them about Cytotec, but each one seemed to have a different advice.

They heard of midwives and doctors doing "it," but again they couldn't be sure, until someone they really trusted gave them the name of a midwife in Pangasinan. They went up and found her. She was practising out of a run-down apartment but seemed very confident about what to do. She told my friend to leave his wife for the afternoon, time for the procedure, and for my friend's wife to rest.

My friend returned in the evening and immediately sensed something was wrong. The apartment was quiet, and the lights were out. No one answered as he called out. The main door was locked and, as his apprehensions grew, he finally forced his way in to find his wife bleeding profusely. The midwife was nowhere to be seen. He rushed his wife to the hospital, but he felt they were unsympathetic, asking all kinds of questions about the abortion. She died shortly after being admitted.

He swore he'd kill the midwife if he ever found her. I didn't have the heart to ask him for other details to establish why the abortion was botched. His concern, which he kept repeating, was simple: "Was it a sin, what we did? Were we being punished?"

Hemorrhage

The second story I have is more recent. Last year, I noticed that Bert, one of the security guards in our apartment complex, had not been showing up for work. I asked one of the other guards what had happened and he gave me the story.

The guard began by asking me if I remembered Bert's wife, who would pass by the apartment complex occasionally with their two children. Yes, I did remember, a young and pleasant woman.

Yes, she was pregnant with a third child and the pregnancy had gone well. When the labor pains began, she was brought to one of the many lying-in centers in the city. This one was in Tondo. There were no problems during labor and a baby boy was delivered. The mother rested awhile but about an hour after delivery, she began to bleed profusely.

The relatives and the midwife were aghast, frantically mobilizing to get the mother to a hospital. But there were delays: they had to find a jeepney; they had to get to Bert, who was on duty; they had to ask around about a hospital. Then they had to get the woman from the lying-in center to the jeep, and negotiate their way out of the narrow streets and alleys. Bert's wife didn't have a fighting chance and died before she could get to the hospital. She was 23.

It took Bert a month before he could get back to work—he buried his wife and then went back to his home province with the three children, leaving them with his mother. A year after his wife's death, he still walks around with a mournful pall.

Names, lives

These two mothers are not atypical. Ask around, especially in our urban poor communities and in rural areas, and you'd be surprised how easy it is to find someone who knows of a recent maternal death. I have many more stories to tell, but what I've realized is that each time I remember them, I find myself mentally blocking out their names. It's almost like I was writing about illegal activities and have to protect those concerned.

It isn't just the stories around abortion, which is a crime with heavy penalties in the Philippines. I feel, strongly, that abortion should be decriminalized and the really heinous crime is the women's continuing lack of access—even in the heart of Manila—to reproductive health services.

Ah, reproductive health—that much maligned, much hated term. "Shorthand for abortion," my conservative friends argue. In the Philippine context, abortion is indeed part of reproductive health, but only as post-abortion care, trying to help the woman after she's had complications. That's often too little, too late. People don't want to see reproductive health in terms of educating people about pregnancies, about family planning, about pre-natal check-ups and care, and about safe deliveries, including referrals from midwives and lying-in centers to hospitals.

In my research among urban poor communities in Metro Manila, I am shocked at the number of women (no, some are really just girls, themselves barely out of childhood) already into their sixth or seventh month of pregnancy but without having gone for a pre-natal check-up yet. They think youth makes a pregnancy safe. Some are single mothers and are ashamed to go to the health center. Others, quite simply, don't know where to go.

It's the younger Filipinos who run the greatest risks because of our neglect of reproductive health. This is a generation that knows how babies are made and not much more. Condoms? They giggle. Pills and injectables they associate with cancer, and the IUD they know only as the chicken intestines sold by sidewalk vendors. As for child care, ah, there's *lola* (grandmother) when the time comes.

We will have the babies and children, many many more of them, reflected in the cold numbers of each census. How many will be loved and raised well? We can't be satisfied with "many," even with "most," for answers. Every child's life, every mother's life, must count.

Give our teachers decent salaries

LETTERS

I WAS promoted recently to Teacher 2. At present, I am receiving a monthly salary of P10,188. As Teacher 2, I'll get an additional salary of P347 a month. Dividing this amount by 22 school days a month will translate roughly into a salary increase of P16 a day.

What is this P16 for? For the paracetamol so that we wouldn't feel the pain of being treated dumb? For the antacid so that my children wouldn't feel the pain of hunger? And how much pain and hunger must this stupid teacher have to endure before she gets the decent salary she deserves?

Don't teachers also fight a war just like the soldiers and policemen that politicians glorify? Must we kill and be killed to enjoy the same salary that that military and law enforcers are getting right now?

Teachers fight a more important war. We fight ignorance every day. We fight to keep our students from being ignorant. We fight to keep ourselves from being ignorant. But our efforts remain unrecognized by the very government that we serve, and we find only one explanation for this.

Our leaders want to keep us ignorant because it benefits them to rule an ignorant nation. Just imagine what they can do, how much they can earn in ruling an ignorant country. They think teachers are "*bobo*" (dense). After all, *sinong matalinong tao ang magtuturo kung alam niyang pampulubi ang suswelduhin nya* (Who is the brilliant person who'd go into the teaching profession knowing that he'll be receiving a beggarly salary)?

No, teachers are not dumb, we are not stupid and we are not *bobo*. We are professionals. We have a science degree. Most of us have a master's degree and a number have doctorates. And we have passed the civil service professional exam. We are asking our government to respect us, to treat us equally, much as it treats other professionals in the government, by giving us decent salaries.

—LANIE J. PEÑAMORA,
License No. 0091906,
Pililla National High School,
Pililla, Rizal

PCA head's tenuous logic

THIS is in reaction to reports that Philippine Coconut Authority Administrator Evangeline Valbuena was being ousted for blocking the use of coco levy funds for a coco-replanting project in Agusan.

The reports gave the impression that Valbuena was merely safeguarding the use of the coco levy on behalf of the small coconut farmers. The truth is that the small coconut farmers have been very critical of Valbuena since she assumed office. And this could be the major reason why the Arroyo administration has been mulling the termination of Valbuena's services.

Valbuena should know that the ever-vigilant small coconut farmers would be the first to oppose the use of coco levy funds for purposes that will not benefit their sector. Unfortunately, the evidence she has presented is tenuous.

In the first place, there is nothing to block because the coco levy funds are still under sequestration. Not even the President of the Republic can touch or reallocate the funds until such time that the courts have lifted the sequestration, or until the courts have rendered a decision with finality. As PCA administrator, Valbuena is well aware of this fact.

Moreover, a careful reading of the signed Memorandum of Understanding between three agencies (i.e., the PCA, the Coconut Industry Investment Fund Oil Mills, and CocoFinance) would show that it is exploratory in nature and merely tackles the feasibility of undertaking the coconut replanting project and the creation of a task force. It does not mention that coco levy funds are going to be used for or rechanneled for the project.

Valbuena's allegations have a semblance of logic to those who are unaware of the real issues. But she has yet to produce concrete evidence, such as a contract or a memorandum of agreement stipulating the use of coco levy funds to substantiate those allegations.

Unfortunately, it seems that Valbuena merely put a spin on a non-issue to get the support of the media and the League of Provinces of the Philippines. It is unfortunate that other organizations have also jumped on the Valbuena bandwagon before doing their research.

—OMI ROYANDOYAN,
executive director,
Philippine Peasant Institute,
Rm. 319 PSSC Bldg.,
Commonwealth Ave.,
Diliman, Quezon City

On Mindanao turning into next 'Afghanistan'

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

WHILE US Chargé d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli may be a little too direct for Filipino sensitivities, what he is saying about terrorists going unchecked in southern Mindanao is quite true. One or two arrests or foiled plots do not a victory make.

When Mussomeli states that the United States has "firm" proof of terrorists' training grounds, he is not making wild schizoid claims on his own volition. Everything that is said by any senior US Embassy representative comes right out of the US State Department in Washington, D.C.; and what comes right out of the US State Department comes out of the White House first.

Thus, calling Mussomeli a wild schizophrenic with sight problems, as some in the Philippine Congress did, is tantamount to calling US President George W. Bush blind and crazy. I really don't think that the Philippine government wants to go on record as taking that route.

I suggest that instead of feeling slighted at the admittedly direct comments that emanate from the US Embassy from time to time, the Philippine government better take these comments to heart as wise advice from an older uncle who has had to pull the Philippines out of the muck more than once and would rather not have to do it again.

However, if the Philippine government fails to heed the friendly warning from the US government and doesn't bother to clean up the country, I am sure that the US government will not hesitate one second to clean the country up for them, like it did in Afghanistan.

I strongly suggest that the Philippines refrain from pushing the US government into going for that option.—Jim Jensen, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte, jrbj999@yahoo.com

* * *

American officials just don't seem to care about what they are saying. All they do is give harsh remarks about our country while we keep on kneeling before them. They can never compare Mindanao to Afghanistan; the two are different.

First, they (United States) created their own mess in Afghanistan, and they are known to withdraw from a battle where they can't get anything. All they cared about was to get even with the Soviet Union at that time.

It's true that they only help if they can get something in return. It's pretty clear why they so eagerly invaded and occupied Iraq, even at the cost of American men and women dying.—Anthony Gene Villamor, Banilad, Mandaue City, anthony@revfashion.com

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Probers find ₱120M in excess charges by Ilocos power firm

LAOAG CITY—The Energy Regulation Commission has found that the local power cooperative has overcharged its consumers by P120 million for an eight-year period beginning 1997.

The ERC, through its chair, former Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano, has yet to furnish the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative (Inec) the result of the investigation.

But Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced on Wednesday that the ERC is wrapping up its report this week before issuing the investigation result and the order for Inec to refund its 116,000 power consumers.

Marcos was told about the result when he spoke with Albano last week.

He said the ERC began auditing Inec's book of accounts and that of other distribution utilities nationwide in November last year upon the implementation of Republic Act 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

The law provided, among other things, the unbundling of rates or itemizing the consumers' bill according to cost and function to determine how much of their payments go to Inec and to the so-called pass through charges.

The pass through charges—ranging from generation, transmission and system loss costs—are additional payments that Inec collects for and pays to the government and to its power providers.

"This is shocking. For a period of eight years the overcharging reached P120 million. (Inec) should account for this money. What happened to that amount," Marcos asked during Wednesday's press briefing.

He said a resolution approved by the provincial board on March 28 asking the ERC to look into the various charges that Inec had been collecting from its consumers expedited the commission's investigations.

"When we asked for a probe, the (ERC) has started its own inquiry. By the time we spoke to the chairman (Albano), the probe has been concluded," Marcos said when asked why the ERC was swift in concluding its investigations.

He admitted that he and his sister, Rep. Imee Marcos, had been in constant communication with Albano for the latter to look into Inec's records and manner of power charging.

For his part, Board Member Mariano Marcos II, the governor's cousin, said the ERC has been investigating all distribution utilities or electric cooperatives since the unbundling of rates took effect last year.

"The process was cut-and-dried that the ERC immediately found out the overcharging made by Inec on its consumers," Board Member Marcos, who initiated a six-week inquiry into Inec's operation in February, said.

The board's inquiry then showed that Inec overcharged its consumers from P10 to P12 million a year on four power sector components such as generation, distribution and supply, transmission and systems loss.

Board Member Marcos said on top of the overcharging that Inec made on the four components, the company also made money out of the 3 percent prompt-payment discount that it derives from the National Transmission Commission by charging the discount equivalent to P5-P10 million to consumers.

The governor has asked the ERC to speed up the release of the order for Inec to refund its consumers in the form of rebates.

"The form of refund and the payback period would be up for discussion," he said, noting that the ERC's policy is for Inec to refund the amount in eight years corresponding to the period that it overcharged its consumers.

Marcos said Inec officials may bring the result of the investigation to court.

"They will try to appeal the decision but the evidence is very clear. If it comes out in court (Inec officials) will be out of jobs the next day. And when we have found the people behind this misdeed, their happy days are over," he said. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

PNP chief orders hunt for killers of media men

LEGAZPI CITY—Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao has directed Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, Bicol police director, to step up the hunt for the region's third most wanted man, Clarito Arizobal alias Boy Zapanta, one of the two suspects in the murder of broadcaster Ruel Endrinal early last year.

Lomibao also ordered the immediate arrest of Segundino Boncay, alias Santi, one of the three suspects charged with the murder of former rebel Claire Domingo, who had turned broadcaster, and her police escort.

The PNP chief arrived here on Wednesday and went directly to the office of Judge Vladimir Brusola of RTC Branch 6 to look closely into the status of Endrinal's case, which was filed in February last year.

He also conferred with city prosecutor Palmerin Rubio, who will prosecute the case.

Admitting that the killing of journalists "is in the end an assault to press freedom and people's right to free expression," Lomibao vowed that the PNP would stop at nothing to protect journalists and serve justice to their murdered colleagues.

Before he left for Manila yesterday morning, the top police official witnessed the signing of an agreement with representatives of the Kilusan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas-Albay Chapter, Albay-Legazpi Press Association Inc., Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) and Police Regional Office 5.

The agreement calls for the protection by the police of mediamen in the region.

The media practitioners, in turn, agreed to cooperate and support the enforcement of laws and uphold professionalism and ethics in the practice of their profession at all times.

The VACC agreed to monitor all criminal cases filed in courts and assist and provide moral support to the survivors of media practitioners who were victims of heinous crimes in the region.

"The PNP remains hopeful and patient that the long arms of the law will eventually catch up with the killers of slain journalists in Bicol," Lomibao said.

He also met with members of the media organizations, prominent leaders of the Muslim community in Albay and top-ranking PNP officials in the region to assess the peace and order situation in the area.

He said among his programs were to upgrade police equipment, strengthen remote police stations and secure world-class tourist destinations. *Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Dads defend embattled police chief

LUCENA CITY—Five city council members, headed by Vice Mayor Roderick Alcala, have appealed to the Department of Interior and Local Government to give fair treatment to Quezon provincial police chief Senior Supt. Leo Kison, who was declared *persona non grata* in the city.

In a letter to Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes, Alcala and Councilors Simon Aldovino, Salome Dato, Godofredo Faller and Arjay Salamillas said politics surrounded the passage of the resolution declaring Kison as *persona non grata*.

The council members believed the resolution was prompted by the relief of Supt. Elmo Francis Sarona as chief of Lucena City police last March 11, which is being blamed on Kison.

The order, however, reportedly came from the police regional office in Canlubang, Laguna.

The five council members even directly linked the city mayor behind moves to discredit the police chief.

Lucena Mayor Ramon Talaga was allegedly interceding for Sarona's reinstatement.

Alcala's group also accused the pro-Talaga councilors of railroading the passage of the resolution, which was not in the agenda of the March 14 session.

It claimed that five councilors voted yes, two voted no, and two abstained. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Appeals court affirms ruling on Boracay titles

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—The Court of Appeals (CA) has affirmed its earlier ruling upholding a lower court decision that a presidential proclamation classifying Boracay as a tourist and marine zone does not bar claimants from having their lands titled.

In a two-page resolution promulgated on March 31, the CA's 20th Division, based in Cebu City, denied an appeal of the Office of the Solicitor-General to reverse the appellate court's Dec. 9, 2004 ruling that upheld a decision of the Kalibo Regional Trial Court Branch 5.

"The motion has not raised any new or substantial ground or reason calling for the upturning of our findings," said the court decision signed by Associate Justice Isaias Dicdican and concurred in by Associate Justices Sesinando Villon and Ramon Bato Jr.

A group of claimants of properties on the island hailed the decision.

"We appeal to the President and the government to respect the judgment (of the court) by not appealing it to the Supreme Court," said Orlando Sacay, vice president for external affairs of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI).

The BFI includes owners of resorts, hotels, restaurants and other businesses on the island.

Sacay said the case would only drag on if the government continues to pursue legal actions against the claimants.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said it was "immaterial" whether the government will appeal the decision or not.

"Once we come up with a declaration (categorizing parts of the island as alienable and disposable), we will withdraw the case," Defensor told the INQUIRER.

Sacay is among 14 claimants who filed a petition before the RTC in Kalibo, seeking the court's interpretation of Presidential Proclamation 1801 issued by the late President Ferdinand Marcos on Nov. 10, 1978.

The proclamation declared as tourist zones and marine reserves several islands and coves, including Boracay, and were categorized as public-owned.

It effectively barred claimants from acquiring titles on properties on the island.

Hail to the 125 New Arellano Lawyers!

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5. ALMALBIS, Jerson F.
6. APITA, Raymond O.
7. ARLES, Albert B.
8. ATALIP, Arnel R.
9. BACHILLER, Allen Brix L.
10. BAGADIONG, Jonathan A.
11. BALAD-ON, Joy I.
12. BALDOVINO, Raycell D.
13. BALINBIN, Remmel M.
14. BALUBAR, George Ian T.
15. BARRIENTOS, Lourdes Grace S.
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94. PAMITTAN, Tito Jonathan M.
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96. PARAISO, Mel Maurice L.
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99. PELAEZ, Josephine Mae B.
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101. PONCE, Jr., Miguel L.
102. PROFETA, Arlan P.
103. PUTONG, Majella E.
104. RAMA, Rommel H.
105. RANILLO, Geraldine C.
106. REY, Florabelle Cherry I.
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111. SAN PABLO, Maria Soledad C.
112. SANGIL, Anne Grachelle N.
113. SANTOS, Jose Theodoro Leonardo C.
114. SEBASTIAN, Alexander V.
115. SUAREZ, Joanne Virni E.
116. TIBAYAN-DE QUILLA, Melinda A.
117. TICZON, Niño Richard Evan B.
118. TIONGSON, Anna Leah Y.
119. TOBILLO, Cecilio N.
120. TOLENTINO, Jenaida M.
121. TORREDES, Rene A.
122. VEHEMENTE, Stephen R.
123. VILLAFRANCA, Michael S.
124. VILLANUEVA, Elton S.
125. WENCESLAO, Gina V.

The new Arellano lawyers will be feted in a testimonial celebration on Wednesday, April 27, 2005 after the Thanksgiving Mass at 4:00 p.m. at the Arellano Law Complex along Taft Avenue corner Menlo Street.

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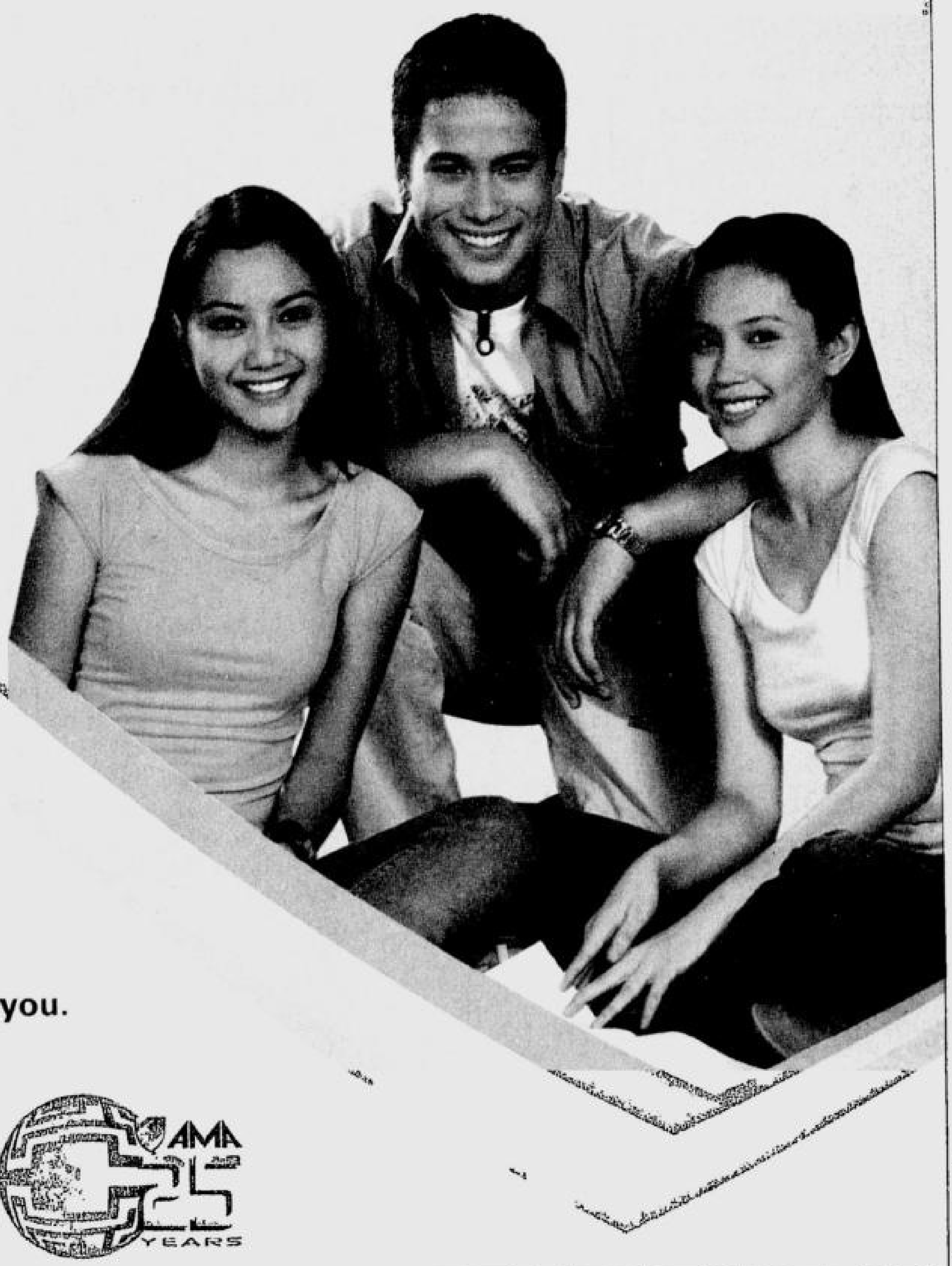

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Gov't firm cuts water supply to C. Luzon farms

CITY OF MALOLOS—Irrigation officials expressed fear that at least P30 million worth of *palay* in Bulacan and Pampanga would be destroyed after the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) cut its water supply to farmlands.

Ike Reyes, an engineer of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), said on Wednesday that the non-release of water by NWRB would adversely affect 765 hectares of *palay* crops in 12 villages in Bulacan and Pampanga.

He said the NIA had supplied water to the farmlands until Wednesday. The withdrawal started Thursday, he added.

The NWRB earlier issued an advisory that it would cut the water supply to NIA for the irrigation needs of farmers in Bulacan and Pampanga after the elevation of water in Angat Dam reached the critical level of 180 meters.

The NWRB said the absence of rains and the continuous long, hot days had lowered the water reserve in Angat Dam.

The advisory was issued on Tuesday night after the water level in Angat Dam dropped to 179.81 meters. As of Wednesday morning, the water level was recorded at 179.56 meters.

Officials of the Angat hydro electric power plant said the stoppage of water release by the NWRB was based on its resolution last year that requires them to shut down the power turbines at the plant once water elevation hit the critical level of 180 meters.

They said they cannot operate the main power turbines when water elevation at the Angat Dam reaches the critical level because it could damage the turbines.

Reyes said those who will be affected are farmers in the towns of Bocaue, Bulacan, Malolos, Guiguinto and San Rafael and the villages of Sta. Monica, San Isidro and Cansinala in Pampanga.

Farmers in these areas failed to heed the advice issued by the NIA and the Department of Agriculture not to plant crops after Jan. 15 in anticipation of another cut in the water supply by the NWRB.

Gloria Carillo, DA chief in Bulacan, said these farmers are expecting to harvest their crops next month.

In other parts of the country, the effects of the El Niño are being felt, too, particularly in farms in Mindanao.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has predicted the onslaught of the El Niño.

Thousands of hectares of farms were dried up as a result of El Niño in the past and efforts to induce rain by cloud seeding have been futile.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

ROUNDUP

Business exec killed

CALAUAG, Quezon—The branch manager of Bayantel and a resident of Pasig City, who met a road accident here, died while being treated in a local hospital here on Wednesday. Investigators said Pascual Labitag, 36, was driving a Toyota Revo along the Maharlika Highway when it collided with an Isuzu Forward truck driven by Francisco Arguelles, of Candelaria, Quezon. The truck was loaded with 10 tons of coconuts. Three passengers in Labitag's vehicle suffered injuries. They were rushed to the St. Peter Hospital.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Marijuana destroyed

WOW PAaaRE - HEAVY !

LEGAZPI CITY—Officials of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Bicol on Wednesday destroyed about 833 grams of marijuana used as evidence against Salvacion Abion, 74, who has been convicted to life imprisonment by Judge Pedro Soriao of Branch 5 of the Regional Trial Court. Instead of burning, however, the evidence, which had a street value of about P10,000, was flushed into a toilet bowl, in the presence of representatives from the media, city prosecutor's office, Legazpi City council and the civil society group as ordered by the court.

Jed Ll. Bacason, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Modern farming in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Rep. Proceso Alcala urged vegetable farmers, particularly those on the slopes of Mt. Banahaw, to continue using the latest farming technology. The quality of vegetables raised in Sariaya, Dolores, Candelaria and Tiaong could compete with those from Mt. Province, he said. With modern farming technology, the vegetables raised in his district could soon find their way to the markets of Hong Kong and Thailand, he added. He said he would continue providing training to help farmers keep abreast of the latest developments in vegetable farming and marketing. He also vowed to improve the irrigation in his district.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Village officials warned

LUCENA CITY—The president of the Association of Barangay Captains, Aurora Garcia, has reminded all village officials not to get involved in illegal activities in their areas. She warned her fellow village officials that even without the barangay elections, they could still be removed from office once they abuse their power. She said she had been receiving reports from concerned citizens that some of her fellow officials were remiss in the performance of the duties. Once a valid complaint against any barangay official has been investigated and proven, the official could face dismissal, she said.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Priest at parents' wedding

INQUIRER Laguna correspondent Romulo Ponte, parish priest of Pangil, Laguna, will officiate at the golden wedding anniversary of his parents at the Our Lady of Snows Parish in El Salvador, Misamis Oriental, about 15 km west of Cagayan de Oro City at 2 p.m. tomorrow. Ponte's parents, Teodoro and Francisca (nee Odchigue), were married on April 16, 1955. The couple's marriage was solemnized by the late Jesuit priest Fr. Joseph Stoffel, then parish priest of Mount Carmel parish in Talisayan town. The golden wedding officiating priest is the only son of the couple and second in a brood of five children. The couple, both retired public school teachers, have 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Reception will follow at the famous Panagatan Restaurant near beach resorts in Opol, Misamis Oriental.

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

San Jose Del Monte welcomes MRT 7

SAN JOSE del Monte City Mayor Angelito Sarmiento, together with Vice Mayor Rey San Pedro and the Sanggunian Panglungsod, declared their full support for the MRT 7 project.

In a press statement, Mayor Sarmiento said he welcomes the property development component of the project, which will be located on a 194-hectare lot in the city.

The MRT 7 Project is a 21.5-km rail project running from Tala in Caloocan City, to the City of San Jose del Monte passing through Commonwealth to North Avenue, Edsa.

The proposed property development component includes middle-income housing (medium to high rise residences), a shopping mall to be built by the SM Group, and other amenities like schools, hospitals and recreational facilities. This new city will be built on the Old Manila Bank property in San Jose del Monte.

Mayor Sarmiento said the project would have a significant contribution to the San Jose del Monte community not only in terms of better access to a fast and reliable transportation system but also in boosting investments in the city and creating more jobs.

"The project perfectly complements my administration's thrusts," he said.

He said the project would also bring financial benefits in the form of taxes.

"These additional resources will help the city government improve delivery of public goods and services," he said.

San Jose del Monte has experienced population growth through the years because of and due to its proximity to Metro Manila. There are over a hundred subdivisions in the city resulting in its 13 percent yearly population growth.

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The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has predicted the onslaught of the El Niño.

Thousands of hectares of farms were dried up as a result of El Niño in the past and efforts to induce rain by cloud seeding have been futile.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

ROUNDUP

Business exec killed

CALAUAG, Quezon—The branch manager of Bayantel and a resident of Pasig City, who met a road accident here, died while being treated in a local hospital here on Wednesday. Investigators said Pascual Labitag, 36, was driving a Toyota Revo along the Maharlika Highway when it collided with an Isuzu Forward truck driven by Francisco Arguelles, of Candelaria, Quezon. The truck was loaded with 10 tons of coconuts. Three passengers in Labitag's vehicle suffered injuries. They were rushed to the St. Peter Hospital.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Marijuana destroyed

WOW PAaaRE - HEAVY!

LEGAZPI CITY—Officials of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Bicol on Wednesday destroyed about 833 grams of marijuana used as evidence against Salvacion Abion, 74, who has been convicted to life imprisonment by Judge Pedro Soriao of Branch 5 of the Regional Trial Court. Instead of burning, however, the evidence, which had a street value of about P10,000, was flushed into a toilet bowl, in the presence of representatives from the media, city prosecutor's office, Legazpi City council and the civil society group as ordered by the court.

Jed Ll. Bacason, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Modern farming in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Rep. Proceso Alcala urged vegetable farmers, particularly those on the slopes of Mt. Banahaw, to continue using the latest farming technology. The quality of vegetables raised in Sariaya, Dolores, Candelaria and Tiaong could compete with those from Mt. Province, he said. With modern farming technology, the vegetables raised in his district could soon find their way to the markets of Hong Kong and Thailand, he added. He said he would continue providing training to help farmers keep abreast of the latest developments in vegetable farming and marketing. He also vowed to improve the irrigation in his district.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Village officials warned

LUCENA CITY—The president of the Association of Barangay Captains, Aurora Garcia, has reminded all village officials not to get involved in illegal activities in their areas. She warned her fellow village officials that even without the barangay elections, they could still be removed from office once they abuse their power. She said she had been receiving reports from concerned citizens that some of her fellow officials were remiss in the performance of the duties. Once a valid complaint against any barangay official has been investigated and proven, the official could face dismissal, she said.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Priest at parents' wedding

INQUIRER Laguna correspondent Romulo Ponte, parish priest of Pangil, Laguna, will officiate at the golden wedding anniversary of his parents at the Our Lady of Snows Parish in El Salvador, Misamis Oriental, about 15 km west of Cagayan de Oro City at 2 p.m. tomorrow. Ponte's parents, Teodoro and Francisca (nee Odchigue), were married on April 16, 1955. The couple's marriage was solemnized by the late Jesuit priest Fr. Joseph Stoffel, then parish priest of Mount Carmel parish in Talisayan town. The golden wedding officiating priest is the only son of the couple and second in a brood of five children. The couple, both retired public school teachers, have 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Reception will follow at the famous Panagatan Restaurant near beach resorts in Opol, Misamis Oriental.

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

San Jose Del Monte welcomes MRT 7

SAN JOSE del Monte City Mayor Angelito Sarmiento, together with Vice Mayor Rey San Pedro and the Sanggunian Panglungsod, declared their full support for the MRT 7 project.

In a press statement, Mayor Sarmiento said he welcomes the property development component of the project, which will be located on a 194-hectare lot in the city.

The MRT 7 Project is a 21.5-km rail project running from Tala in Caloocan City, to the City of San Jose del Monte passing through Commonwealth to North Avenue, Edsa.

The proposed property development component includes middle-income housing (medium to high rise residences), a shopping mall to be built by the SM Group, and other amenities like schools, hospitals and recreational facilities. This new city will be built on the Old Manila Bank property in San Jose del Monte.

Mayor Sarmiento said the project would have a significant contribution to the San Jose del Monte community not only in terms of better access to a fast and reliable transportation system but also in boosting investments in the city and creating more jobs.

"The project perfectly complements my administration's thrusts," he said.

He said the project would also bring financial benefits in the form of taxes.

"These additional resources will help the city government improve delivery of public goods and services," he said.

San Jose del Monte has experienced population growth through the years because of and due to its proximity to Metro Manila. There are over a hundred subdivisions in the city resulting in its 13 percent yearly population growth.

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Solon seeks probe of power plant deal

BACOLOD CITY—Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella has sought an investigation of alleged irregularities committed by the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) in the bidding and awarding of a P3.6 billion contract for the building of the 40-megawatt Northern Negros Geothermal Power Plant in Bago City.

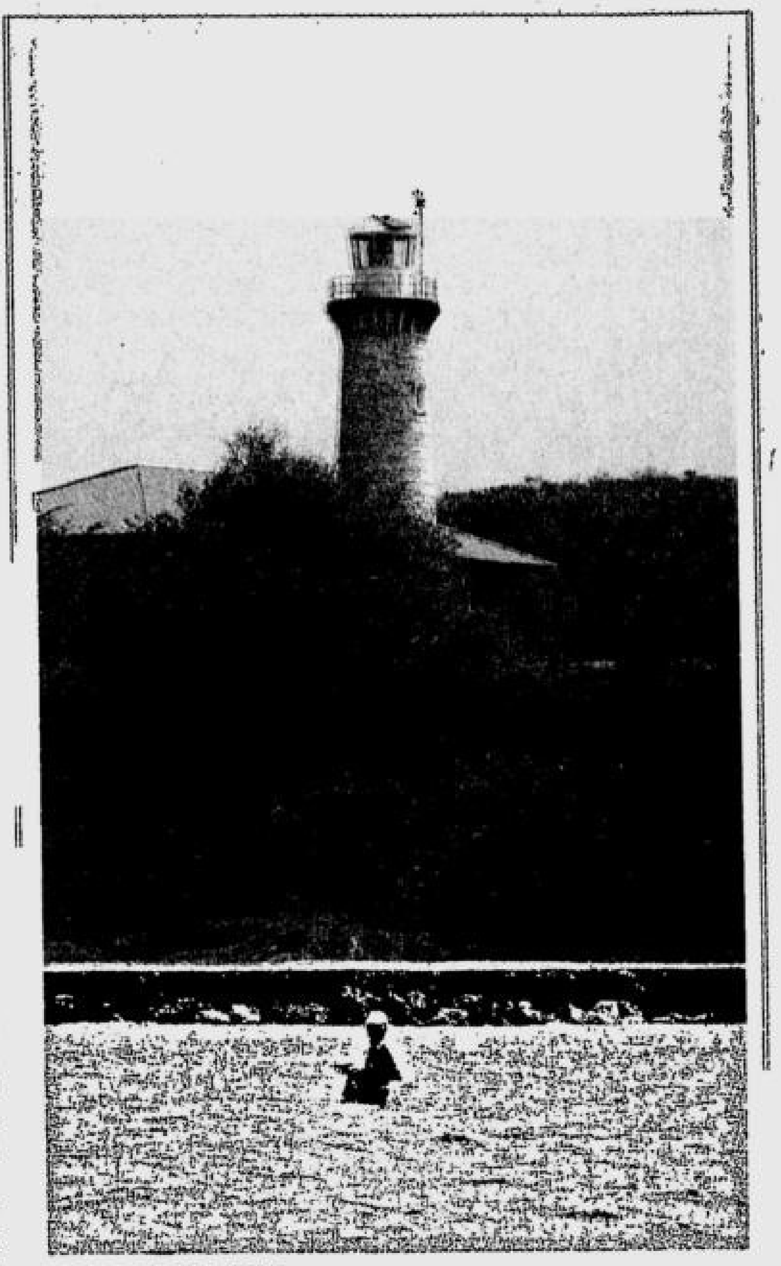
The congressman filed House Resolution 00666 directing the House committee on energy to conduct the investigation.

In his resolution, Puentevella said there were allegations of irregularities, particularly in the manner in which PNOC-EDC awarded the construction of the power plant to Kanematsu Corp, a Japanese firm.

He said negotiations were said to have been underway between Kanematsu and the PNOC-EDC even before the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) approved the technical bid.

"PNOC-EDC proceeded with the bidding and awarding of the contract even if only Kanematsu submitted a bid, to the detriment of the Filipino people who will be served by a power plant that may be constructed better and cheaper by other companies if only they were given more time to submit their bids," the resolution added.

According to the resolution, it was also highly irregular that, when JBIC approval was received in the evening of Nov. 24, 2004, PNOC-EDC proceeded to call for a bidding the next day, assuming the fact that the bidders and the Commission on Audit will have enough time to prepare. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*



GUIDING LIGHT MITCH MAURICIO

A man fishes near the famed Parola lighthouse in Calatagan, Batangas. The lighthouse has been around since World War II and sharpnel marks are still visible on its walls.

Bishop of Romblon dies in hospital in Bacolod

BACOLOD CITY—Msgr. Vicente Garrucho Salgado, Bishop Emeritus of Romblon, died Saturday afternoon at the Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. He was 68.

Salgado died of multiple organ failure caused by a malignant liver disease and acute renal failure, his death certificate said.

Salgado, who hails from Bacolod City, now lies at the Sacred Heart Seminary.

He will be buried at the crypt of the San Sebastian Cathedral in Bacolod after a 9 a.m. requiem Mass tomorrow, said Msgr. Victorino Rivas, Vicar General of the Diocese of Bacolod.

"He was a hard-working man of God who resigned as Bishop of Romblon only after he was struck by illness," Rivas said.

Salgado was born in Bacolod City on April 20, 1936. He was ordained as priest on Dec. 23, 1961 in Bacolod City, and was appointed Bishop of Romblon on May 30, 1988. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Susan outraged, socks it to Gloria

From page A1

and decided it would be futile to seek a reversal. She assailed the Supreme Court decision, saying the justices based it on a mere technicality while leaving unresolved the main question of whether or not her husband had been robbed of victory in the May 2004 polls.

But Roces said yesterday she was not leading a movement to unseat Ms Arroyo.

"I am just a housewife. I have no plans of mounting anything," she told some 200 journalists and photographers at Club Filipino in San Juan.

"Only the people's experiences and emotions could tell them what to do," she said.

The press conference was held at the club's Kalayaan Hall where Cory Aquino took her oath as President on Feb. 25, 1986, the final day of the People Power Revolution that ended the Marcos dictatorship.

The President, who was on a visit to Boracay yesterday, refused to be baited.

"The best way to promote reconciliation is not to make a public statement," she said of Roces' remarks.

But her spokesperson Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said of Roces' comment about not knowing who really won in 2004: "We already know the truth. We won by 1 million votes. She (the President) is recognized as the winner not only in the country but by other world leaders.

"Win or lose, we should respect justice whichever way it goes," Bunye said.

"We should respect the law. If we don't respect the law, there will be disorder," he said.

Right to free speech

Bunye added that as far as Malacañang was concerned, Roces was only exercising her right to free speech.

Yesterday, a combative Roces confirmed that she would not appeal the court's decision. But this would not stop her from speaking her mind, she said.

"If was a failure on their part (the justices). It could have been a chance ... to prove the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo. It's hard to lead if people persist in doubting whether you won or not," she said in a mixture of English and Filipino.

She also disagreed with the PET's ruling that she was not "the party in interest" in the electoral protest.

For the Filipinos

According to Roces, the protest was filed in behalf of Juan de la Cruz and she was merely representing the Filipino people.

RISING STAR of the United Opposition meets some of its leaders like Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito at Club Filipino on Thursday night. REM ZAMORA

"Anything that is doubtful in government is of interest to us. We definitely are the party in interest," she said.

"There was cheating. There was vote-padding," she added, to applause from the audience.

"Justice in this country has long been blind, deaf and dumb," she said in Filipino, citing the growing list of slain journalists and the still unsolved murder of movie actress Nida Blanca.

No permit, no rally

"The freedom of expression regained by President Aquino is slowly eroded. No permit, no rally. Of course, they will not grant you a permit," Roces said, referring to her husband's followers who had been reportedly stopped from holding rallies because they didn't have permits.

But Roces stressed that she would not be joining the street rallies being planned by her husband's followers or the political groups opposed to Ms Arroyo.

"Physically, I cannot join (street rallies)," she said.

She said she would meet with opposition leaders "because they are friends of my husband."

"My heart and my spirit and my thoughts are always with those who believe in the same principles that FPJ fought for," she said.

The former movie star also declined to go into subjects about which she said she was not knowledgeable.

Abalos' dare

Reacting to Roces' comments, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. dared Poe's widow to prove her accusations of massive cheating, harassment and disenfranchisement in the 2004 elections.

Abalos said Roces should cite the province, town, district or precinct where the alleged cheating took place.

"It's easy to make such accusations but it's hard to prove them," he said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that as far as Malacañang was concerned, its conscience was clear.

"The administration believes our President is the President of the Republic in a well-contested and legitimate electoral process and if there is anything that questions the result of the election, we can live with our conscience," he said.

Ermita said Poe's supporters should accept the PET decision.

Election is over

"The truth is the election is over, the President has won, the SC has ruled, and going by the rule of law, that is the very reason why the Constitution provides for certain procedures on how to handle cases of this nature. I don't think we have to talk about whether our conscience is bothered or not," Ermita said. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Gomez charged for not paying 2000-'03 taxes

From page A1

Richard Frank Icasiano Gomez, only had one transaction with the bureau during the period, when he paid P786,975 in documentary stamp tax for the purchase of a P52-million property in Forbes Park, Makati.

And yet, the DOF and BIR said, Gomez actively pursued his profession as a movie and TV actor, model, commercial talent, product endorser and host from 2000 to 2003. They said his professional fees from ABS-CBN Channel 2 and GMA Channel 7 averaged more than P1 million a year.

'Politically motivated'

But Gomez insisted that he had been paying taxes, and that the filing of the tax evasion case against him was "politically motivated."

"I'm quite sure that this is happening because I'm a strong voice of the opposition," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "I strongly opposed the passage of the VAT (value-added tax). This is what I get."

But Gomez said he was open to the possibility that there had been "an error in the documentation" of his ITRs during the period 2000-2003.

"I pay my taxes," he stressed. "Something must have gone wrong along the way."

Media hype

Gomez also said he was denied due process because the BIR "immediately came up with a conclusion that I intentionally evaded paying my taxes."

He added: "The [BIR] should first counter-check documents, come up with a decision and inform the party concerned. What happened was that [it] filed the case right away. *Tapos,* media hype *agad.*"

Asked what he intended to do regarding the case, Gomez said simply: "I'll wait."

'Unthinkable'

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said the bureau's investigation also showed that Gomez made several movies with Regal Films, Viva Films and Star Cinema during the period in question. He also endorsed Bench products and Squibb Vitamin E, and participated in Bench fashion shows.

"It is unthinkable for a bankable actor like Richard Gomez not to earn anything during all those years that he actively pursued his career as actor and commercial model," Parayno said in a statement.

He also said the BIR discovered Gomez's alleged tax delinquency through its automated auditing and database systems.

If proven guilty of tax evasion Gomez will face imprisonment of 1-10 years and will have to pay the necessary taxes, penalties and surcharges, according to Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan.

"The DOF and the BIR do not hold anyone sacred, be it doctors, lawyers, actors, or even politicians," he said at a press briefing.

Bonoan denied that the filing of the case against Gomez had something to do with his being identified with the opposition.

Asked whether Gomez could escape imprisonment if he pays his tax liabilities and corresponding penalties, Bonoan said what the DOF would pursue was "the full force of the law."

'Run After Tax Evaders'

Gomez's case was filed under the aegis of the DOF and BIR's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program, which is going after allegedly tax delinquent celebrities or known businesses and filing charges against them to discourage the public from following their example.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima earlier said the DOF was not inclined to pardon or agree with any compromise settlements with tax evaders under RATE. He said he would like it impressed on the public that the government was serious in its campaign against tax evasion.

"There is no political color to this; whether the person is identified with the administration or another party is not important to us," Bonoan said.

He said government efforts to go after tax evaders covered all sectors.

Bonoan also said RATE's only criteria were if the target persons were known by many, if they had clear tax violations, and if they had the capacity to pay taxes.

Others charged

The BIR also filed tax evasion charges against Edgardo Tecson Yambao and his wife Maria Isabel who, it said, had no record of ITRs from 1993 to 2003.

"Yet the couple have a residential unit in a subdivision in Muntinlupa, a condominium unit at One Burgundy Plaza in Loyola Heights, and another residential unit at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City," the BIR said.

It further said the Yambaos acquired the condo in 1999, and three luxury vehicles—a Toyota Land Cruiser and two Subaru Foresters—from 2001 to 2003. These were in addition to a unit in Essensa East Forbes Condominium.

The total cost of these assets at the time of their acquisition was P31.68 million, the BIR said.

Purisima said the BIR complaint against the Yambaos "only shows that we have the means and the tools to ferret out tax evaders. We intend to use these tools to vigorously run after tax evaders in ... RATE."

Celebrities, too

The people earlier charged with tax evasion under RATE were: INQUIRER fitness columnist Cristina Aboitiz-Juan, celebrity doctor Joel Cortez Mendez, basketball star Asi Taulava, former military comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and his wife, officers of the Philippine Telephone and Telegraph Corp. (PT&T), officers of Excellance Weaving, officers of the motor vehicle distributor Italcar, and Renato Herrera of Glo Herbal.

No government officials

Reacting to criticism that RATE was targeting only celebrities, media personalities and small businessmen, Parayno told the INQUIRER that politicians and other ranking government officials were not being targeted because they were presumed to be paying their taxes.

"In the case of governors, congressmen and senators, they are government officials ... and because of the withholding system, automatically taxes are withheld by our employer, which is the government," he said.

Parayno, however, said the RATE campaign had no sacred cows.

The bigger the better

"Let me tell you this: We will not really care who the person is," he said. "Once we have the evidence, we will file the case [even if it concerns] the highest official of the land. No exception. I tell you this: The bigger the better."

Parayno said that if RATE was concentrating on the self-employed, it was because they had been found to be paying less taxes than government officials and employees whose taxes had been withheld.

"That is the reason why we have to give priority to our self-employed," he said. *With reports from Marinel R. Cruz and Armand N. Nocum*

Iron out differences in VAT bills, GMA urged

From page A1

Without Ms Arroyo's intervention, a protracted debate (at least two weeks) and stalemate would ensue in the bicam, according to Angara. He said a stalemate would hurt the economy.

With the President intervening early, the bill could be finalized by Monday or Tuesday, Angara said.

"It is an exercise of political leadership. After all, she leads her party and her party controls both houses," he said.

He noted that even the United States President would make it a point to call members of his party whenever an important measure was pending in Congress.

Malacañang said it had no plans to intervene in the bicameral conference committee to avert protracted debates.

Hard won

In Boracay, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called the Senate approval of its version of the VAT bill a "hard-won" triumph for Senate President Franklin Drilon even if the bill fell short of the House version, which imposes a higher VAT rate.

"What is important is that I need P80 billion from the legislature and they have committed P80 billion," the President told reporters at the Boracay Regency Hotel.

Asked whether the Palace would still push for the 12 percent rate in the bicameral conference committee, Ms Arroyo said: "Let us give them the time to work out their collective wisdom."

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima was also heartened by the passage of the VAT bill in the Senate.

"The passage of this bill reinforces the government's resolve in addressing the structural problems of the country, regardless of how bitter the pill may be," Purisima said in a statement.

House unhappy

But the House was unhappy with the Senate version of the VAT bill.

Saying that the Senate version was "unacceptable," House leaders yesterday geared up for a "bloody" clash with senators in the bicameral conference committee this afternoon.

The Senate panel is headed by ways and means committee chair Ralph Recto, whose report was approved virtually intact with the exception of the addition of the no pass-on provision for residential power users.

Its members are administration senators Rodolfo Biazon, Manuel Villar, Richard Gordon and Joker Arroyo, and Angara, Serge Osmeña, Jamby Madrigal and Juan Ponce Enrile from the minority. Of the four opposition members, only Madrigal voted against the VAT.

Maximum safety nets

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the House panel would "fight for the maximum revenue yield and maximum safety nets for the Filipino people."

"This is our fighting faith," declared De Venecia who held a meeting with the chamber's tax experts Wednesday to plan the chamber's strategy.

The Speaker said the bottom line for the House was a net revenue yield of P60 billion for the two VAT reform bills (12 percent rate and lifting of exemptions).

Work in progress

At a briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the government was content in letting members of Congress figure out by themselves what VAT reforms were needed by the government in solving the fiscal crisis.

"The President appreciates this development and we anticipate that Congress will pass the final hurdle in the bicameral conference committee soon," said Bunye. "It's a work in progress."

Angara wants Ms Arroyo to convince the House to adopt the Senate version, saying it was the "less painful" of the two versions.

But Rep. Joey Salceda, chair of the House economic affairs committee, said a VAT with a rate of less than 12 percent would not be credible.

"We can't get the P60 billion recurring revenues without (the bicam adopting) the House version," said Salceda.

Possible compromise

"The House version will produce the target revenue with the lesser burden to the people," said Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee.

Angara said the two versions would raise the same level of revenue but the Senate version "softens the blow to the vulnerable" sectors.

He noted that the Senate version would prohibit the passing on of the 10-percent VAT on power to residential consumers.

Angara said even the 11-percent rate proposed by De Venecia as a possible compromise would not be acceptable to the people. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

Quake rumor rocks Phivolcs, sends wave of fear thru Metro

From page A1

Alarmed citizens burned the phone lines to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology all day yesterday, attempting to verify e-mail and text messages that said an earthquake was to hit Metro Manila in the late afternoon.

Phivolcs seismology chief Jane Punongbayan said the inquiries started as early as last week but peaked yesterday as the time of the predicted earthquake approached.

Some callers were asking whether it was still safe to go to work or send their children to school. Others just wanted to know if the reports were true.

One text message went: "Sister Reodica predicted the tsunamis. She is predicting that there will be an intensity 9 earthquake at 5 p.m. April 14, 2005 in Manila. Pls pray hard and pls be in a safe place. Pls pray the rosary."

Other versions were not as precise, saying the earthquake would occur later today or a few days after April 15.

'Sea of fire'

An e-mail message from someone claiming to be a doctor said that an earthquake would jolt Manila, cause water to flood the city, destroy the fuel depot in Pandacan and eventually create a "sea of fire."

The sender said she had already moved her children to La Union for safety.

It was not clear if the Sister Reodica referred to was Sr. Raquel Reodica, a healer who operates out of the Religious of the Virgin Mary healing center in Novaliches. She had claimed to have been visited by visionaries who predicted the deadly tsunami that struck Asia and parts of Africa in December 2004.

Punongbayan stressed that the messages did not come from Phivolcs.

No scientific basis

"The prediction was made by a psychic. There is no scientific basis for that," she said in an interview.

"The faults and trenches can move anytime, but there is no one in the whole world, not even the Japanese, who is capable of making valid short-term predictions," Punongbayan said.

"There has been no ground deformation, no indication at all that there will be an earthquake with that intensity," Punongbayan said, adding that experts can only predict seismic activities or ground movements over a long period, such as decades.

Japan, which has been frequently devastated by earthquakes, leads the world in the development of seismic technology and early warning systems for all kinds of disasters.

"I cannot tell psychics not to make predictions ... But I hope they have better—and correct—predictions next time, so they will not cause panic," Punongbayan said.

The Philippines is prone to seismic upheavals because of its location on the so-called "Pacific Ring of Fire," an arc stretching from New Zealand, passing through Indonesia, the Philippines and Japan, extending north to Alaska and down the west coast of North and South America, that is ringed by volcanoes.

Tectonic plates

Tectonic plates underneath this zone constantly shift and collide, producing earthquakes and causing volcanic eruptions.

In the Philippines, these faults and trenches that are the earthquake generators are found on the eastern and western sides of the country.

20 quakes daily

The country sits on 28 major faults and one continuous fault running from Northern Luzon to eastern Mindanao.

The Philippines experiences about 20 earthquakes daily but these are not strong enough to be felt.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Vidal no chance to be pope; Sin sorely missed

From page A1

of the last conclave that elected Karol Wojtyla as Pope John Paul II. He is widely known here in Vatican circles and the Italian media for leading the two Philippine revolutions in 1986 and 2001.

Many of the cardinals are asking, "'Where's Cardinal Sin?'" said Fr. Jerry Stookey of the Dominican curia here.

Sin, US Cardinal William Wakefield Baum and German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger are the only survivors of the 1978 conclave.

Unknown

But the fact that Vidal is unknown may work for him since Wojtyla was not considered a papabile when he entered the 1978 conclave. "We can never know the mind and heart of the Holy Spirit," Pernia said.

The "African possibility" is Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria, the prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. The African cardinal has often been credited with forging closer relations with Muslim and other religions as head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

India's cardinal dark horse

In contrast, Asia has no papabile. The Asian cardinal most often cited as a contender, Ivan Diaz of Bombay, is a dark horse.

Part of the reason there's no Asian papabile is that none of the Asian cardinals have been at one time or another connected with the Roman curia or the Vatican government.

Vatican insiders

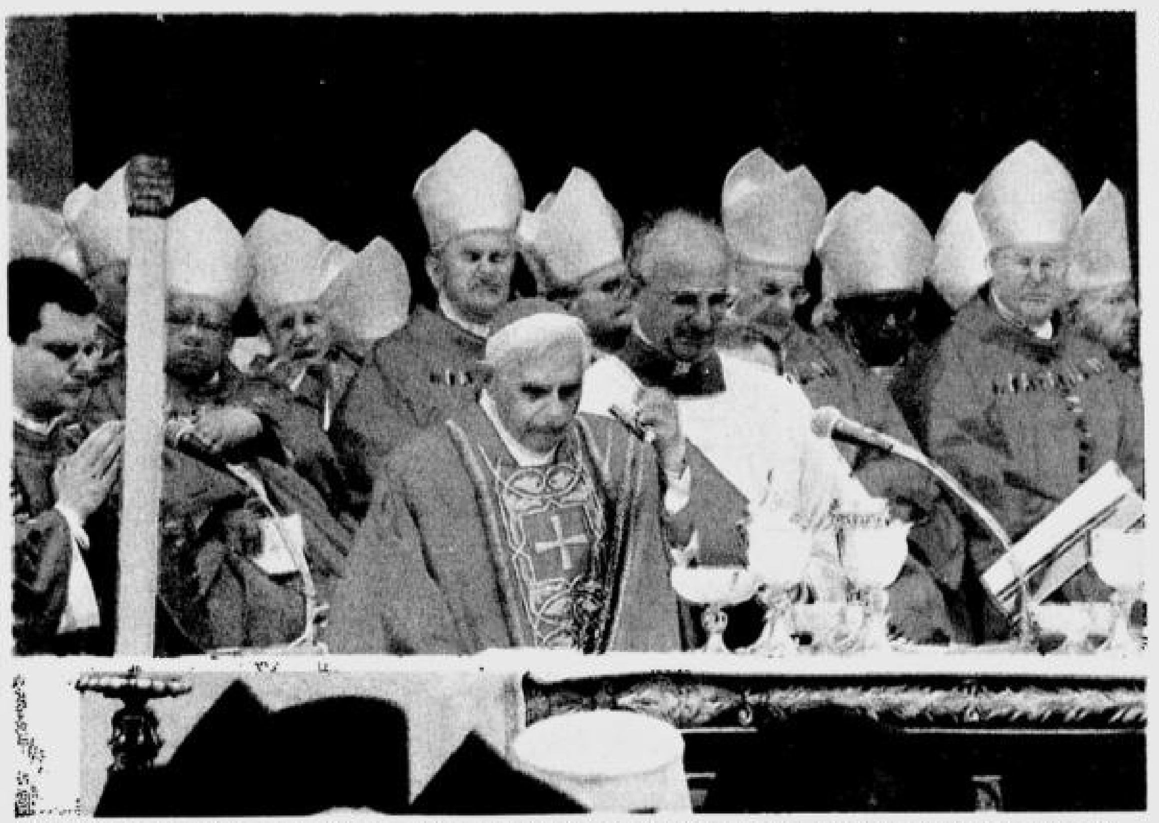
Like Arinze, other papal contenders are Vatican insiders such as Colombian Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos of the Congregation for Clergy and Ratzinger of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Italian cardinals are perceived to be papabile because the Vatican media based here have reported their activities and statements.

Non-Italian papabile are either non-European curia officials or European cardinals who had worked at the Vatican, such as Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Austria, who was at one time assistant to Ratzinger.

Beyond age limit

The only Filipino who has Vatican connections is Cardinal Jose Sanchez, Hoyos' predecessor in the Congregation for the Clergy. But Sanchez has retired and is 85, and thus beyond the canonical approved age limit of 80 to vote and be voted as pope.


THE LONE FILIPINO cardinal in the conclave would be Cardinal Ricardo Vidal (second from left) who's neither a front-runner like German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (center) nor in the running for the papacy, according to media reports.

AP

Not proportional

Rome-based heads of religious groups that have extensive mission work and stations in Asia said that Asians are not proportionally represented in the College of Cardinals. Asia has 11 voting cardinals, against 58 European cardinals, 21 Latin American cardinals and 11 African cardinals.

"The population of Italian cardinals compared with the non-Italian cardinals does not represent the Catholic population in their places," said Stookey. "The proportion is not geographically sound, not a demographic representation."

"We could do a little better to distribute the cardinals," Stookey added.

Pernia agreed, saying there's an "imbalance in the number of cardinals."

Faith dead in Europe

Spanish Dominican Carlos Rodriguez Linera of the Rome-based Center for Documentation and Research on missions and the religious life said a non-European pope is only proper "because in Asia and Africa, the feeling of faith is alive while in Europe the faith is dead."

Most important traits

Pernia agreed. "I myself hope the next pope would be from outside of Europe, but the most important is personality and spirituality regardless of where he comes from," he said. "He should be a man of profound spirituality and deep faith."

Murder at noon: Political rivalry, grudge eyed

From page A1

worski said the late congressman was hoping that the tribunal would rule in his favor next month.

"I asked the wife (Zenaida). She said Henry had no enemy that she knew of other than his enemies in politics," Jaworski said, adding that a son of the Lanots had confirmed this.

Lanot's remains are now at the family residence in Greenland Subdivision, Pasig.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao went to the wake at about 10 a.m. yesterday to convey his condolences to the bereaved family, but Zenaida Lanot stayed secluded in her room.

It was only when the TV cameras were pulled out of the living room that the widow emerged to speak with the mourners, some of whom were weeping.

Lanot, 56, left behind a daughter and three sons, one of whom is based in the United States.

Mayor Eusebio is on a month-long leave that began on April 1 and has designated his son, Councilor Bobby Eusebio, as acting mayor.

"We will open all the resources of City Hall to help the police in solving this case. I am sure there is a mastermind behind the killing. We should trace who that is," the councilor said yesterday.

He denied allegations that his family was behind Lanot's murder. "Many politicians are riding on what happened for their own popularity," he said.

In a phone interview, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said Mayor Eusebio would not benefit from Lanot's death.

"In accordance with the election law, the case will not be extinguished by Lanot's death and would continue until it's resolved by the Supreme Court," Abalos said

He also said the Comelec had communicated its position on the case through the Office of the Solicitor General, who is representing the poll body before the Supreme Court.

Ready for resolution

Luzviminda Puno, the tribunal's clerk of court, said the case Lanot filed against the Comelec had now reached a point where the latter was to file a memorandum detailing Eusebio's alleged premature campaigning and vote-padding.

"After the filing of the memorandum, the court can sit down to deliberate and decide on the case," Puno said in an interview.

"The case was all ready for resolution," she said, adding that the memorandum from Lanot could have contained the "summation of the case" and why he should be declared winner of the Pasig mayoralty race.

Asked whether a "person in interest" could step in to substitute for Lanot in the complaint—the way actress Susan Roces sought to do before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal following the death of her husband Fernando Poe Jr.—Puno said it would depend on what steps Lanot's lawyers would take and how the high court would rule on such a move.

Professional hired killer

The Eastern Police District (EPD) headed by Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela has released an artist's sketch of Lanot's killer, described as 29-30 years old, with short hair and of medium build, and about 5'7" tall.

Police said the lone gunman was a professional hired killer. Witnesses said he was dressed in jeans and a blue shirt, and carried a black backpack.

This was how witnesses narrated the killing, according to the police:

The gunman arrived at around 12:30 p.m. at the Jade Palace, a restaurant frequented by politicians in Pasig and which both Lanot and Eusebio used for press briefings.

Lanot arrived about half an hour later and was seated with his back to the toilet. Romeo Santos, a former congressman, was waiting for him.

Gunman in toilet

Around four tables were occupied at the time.

A waiter offered the gunman a seat and asked him how many other people he was expecting.

The gunman said: "Don't worry, I'm just waiting for someone." Then he asked where the toilet was.

After Lanot finished his lunch, the gunman went to the toilet, which was about 3 meters away from the ex-lawmaker's table.

On emerging from the toilet, the gunman headed straight to Lanot, took out a .45-cal. handgun, and shot him in the head.

The gunman then walked out of the restaurant, crossed the street and boarded a jeep.

Sr. Supt. Raul Medina, Pasig police chief, said people at the restaurant saw what looked like a silencer attached to the gun. He said this would explain why no shell was found at the crime scene.

Task Force Lanot

At the wake, a composed Zenaida Lanot told the INQUIRER that she was "leaving everything to the Lord."

"Perhaps the Lord has better plans for my husband," she said.

The widow said she intended to request the National Bureau of Investigation to join the inquiry into her husband's murder.

In a draft letter to the bureau, she said the PNP had been "very helpful and thorough" but that the NBI's joining the case would "expedite" the investigation and "greatly help in bringing the perpetrator to justice."

But Medina said the Pasig police would still proceed with the investigation and submit their report to the EPD.

"We have formed Task Force Lanot so that we will be able to investigate, gather evidence and follow up leads," Lomibao also said, adding that he had ordered a nationwide hunt for the killer.

Valenzuela said his deputy, Sr. Supt Eugene Martin, would head Task Force Lanot.

"My marching order is for them to drop [everything] they are doing and concentrate on this case to solve it in the soonest time possible," Valenzuela said.

Guns for hire

In a statement issued by the Palace, President Macapagal-Arroyo condemned the assassination of Lanot.

"I condemn this murder in the strongest terms and I want authorities to leave no stone unturned in bringing perpetrators, including the mastermind, to justice," she said.

The President also ordered the PNP to "come up with a special order of battle for guns for hire and to check the proliferation of loose firearms that allow these heinous killings to be planned and executed."

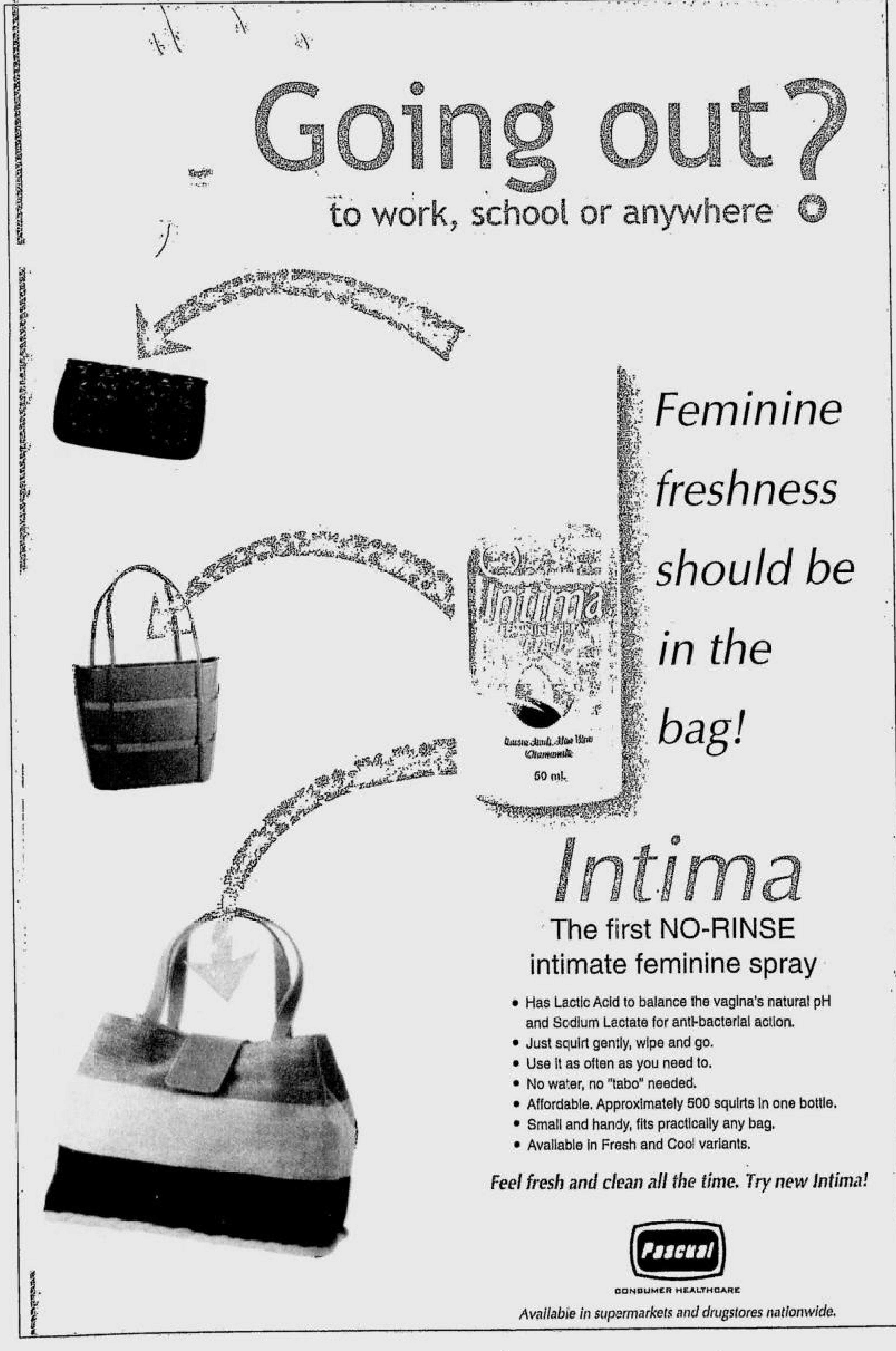
"Criminal justice and not violence is the only way to obtain retribution in a democratic society, and we shall strike hard against those who take the law into their hands," she said.

Chilling effect

But Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption assailed law enforcers for their apparent inability to stop the wave of killings.

The murders, with Lanot as the latest victim, create a "chilling effect," according to Ocampo.

"They create a climate of impunity. Hired goons carry out killing sprees without fear that they would be caught or brought to justice," he added. *With reports from Armand Nocum, Jerome Aning, Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Reagan Tan*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MMDA to recycle bridge parts for new overpasses

By Tarra V. Quismundo

PASSAGEWAYS safe and nice at half the price.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is set to build more footbridges on Edsa and other major thoroughfares in Metro Manila using second hand materials. The agency also assured the public that the materials, though recycled, were strong enough to carry the weight of crossing pedestrians.

MRT discards

"The footbridges would be made of concrete and salvaged beams and girders that were dismantled when the Metro Rail Transit was built," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

He said the beams, carefully removed from where they had been fixed on several points along Edsa to give way to the MRT line, would be used for eight more footbridges the MMDA was expected to build soon.

Five footbridges would rise on Edsa, said Fernando, while the rest would be constructed on other crucial pedestrian crossings in the Metro that the MMDA has yet to disclose. The agency is currently completing 13 footbridges around Metro Manila.

Half the cost

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said under the scheme, construction costs would be cut by half. Using steel, like what the MMDA did for the Cubao footbridge, would have raised the cost even further, he said.

"Each of the footbridges would cost P5 million. A new one could cost more than P10 million. The price of steel continues to rise, so we looked for alternatives," said Lacuna.

The deputy chair said the MMDA had forged a deal with Freysinet, the company that had constructed the dismantled pedestrian overpasses, to reuse the concrete girders.

"I asked Freysinet to test the beams and girders. They said the materials were stable, safe and sound," Lacuna said.

The agency said it had already used recycled salvaged concrete beams for new footbridges. An overpass on Coastal Road built a year ago using recycled materials remained sound, it added.

Manila police nab 18 illegal money changers

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE WESTERN Police District (WPD) arrested 18 illegal money changers operating without proper business permits along Mabini Street in San Andres, Manila, the other day.

The suspects were identified as Gloria Parungao, Mylene Tisor, Nida Carreon, Cherry dela Cruz, Jane Lopez, Lea Torres, Flordeliza Macapagal, Marvin Santos, Darwin Bustarde, Mario Bitoon, William Villadolid, Elena Eleazar, Milbasa Alpha, Yukop Sakaluran, Teresa Lucero, Mylene dela Cruz, Joseph Sayo, and Daryl Jeremiah Fernandez.

WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said the shops did not have any business permit from the Mayor's Office.

Apart from the closure of their establishments, the shops' owners were formally charged in the Manila Prosecutor's Office.

The city government had ordered the closure of Bon-Kring Money Changer in Ermita recently for allegedly shortchanging the wife of Kenya's delegate to the recently-concluded conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

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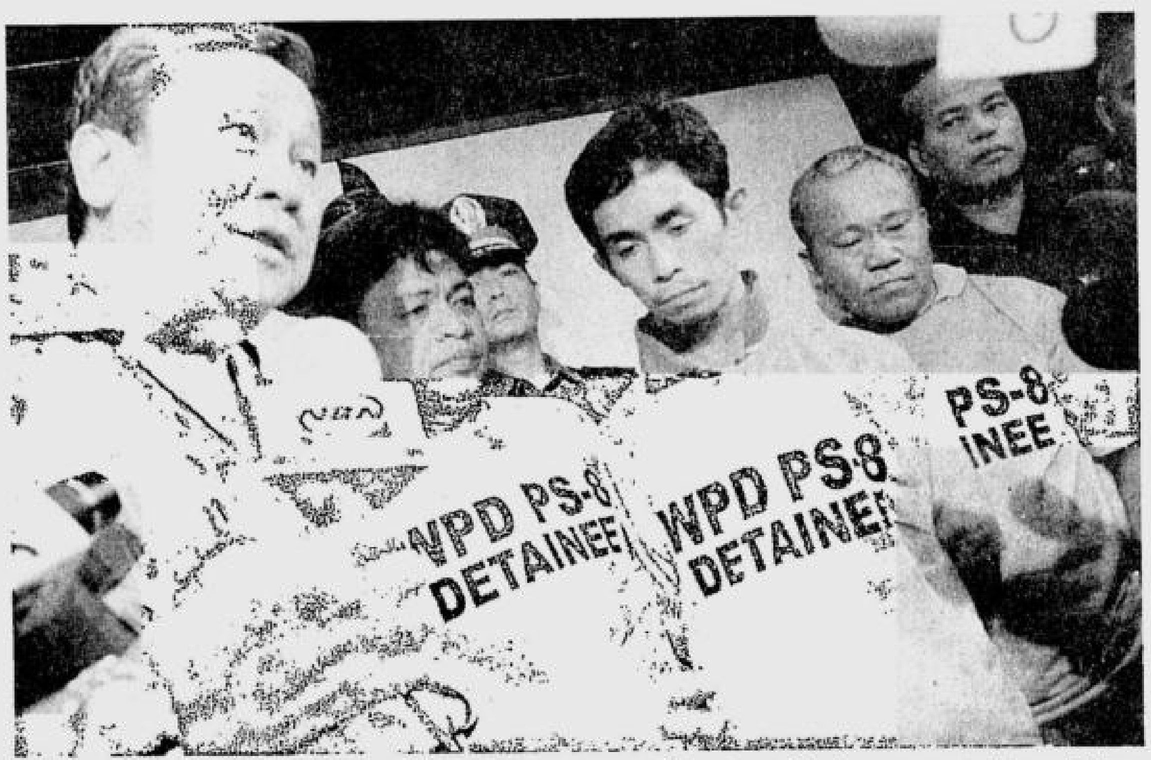
Quiapo shooting was a joke, suspects say



HADJI Ali Lucman, Weng Macabato and Hadji Mali-Nanak (in detainee shirts) are presented to media by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza (left) and Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong (behind detainees, right).

ERIK ARAZAS

By Tina G. Santos

"JUST kidding."

That was the defense of three men who allegedly fired shots that disrupted a press conference in Quiapo, Manila, on Tuesday, adding that they did not intend to harm mediamen at the event.

"We were merely having fun," said Hadji Ali Lucman, who claimed that he and fellow suspects Weng Macabato and Hadji Mali-Nanak were not aware of the press conference.

They were presented to media yesterday by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Tension rose during yesterday's presentation when mediamen who were at the Quiapo press conference belied suspects' claims.

"You're lying!" a cameraman of a television network said as he claimed that one of them poked a gun at him and shoved him out of the Islamic Center where the press conference was being held.

6 WPD men charged for trader's kidnap

By DJ Yap

SIX MEMBERS of the Western Police District have been charged with kidnapping for ransom by a telecommunications store owner they allegedly abducted in July 2003 and released in exchange for P18,000 and more than P1 million in mobile phones.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed the complaint against Insp. Joselito Binayug, SPO2 Marcelino Morales Jr., SPO1 Alejandro Sanchez, PO2 Roel Young, PO1 Emerson Riosa and PO1 Alexis Cabaddu.

They are accused of kidnapping Robert Ong, owner of a phone store at Isetann Recto Mall in Manila.

According to the complaint filed against the suspects, a certain Zenaida De Los Reyes went to Ong's store on July 22, 2003, and ordered 90 phones of various models.

The next day, Ong and wife, Maritess, went to Ever Gotesco along CM Recto Avenue to deliver the phones but failed to find De Los Reyes.

At the first floor, Binayug and the other suspects approached the couple, identified themselves as NBI agents, and forced Ong into a green Toyota van.

The suspects then demanded P5 million from him in exchange for his freedom. Ong did not have that amount so the suspects allegedly took his P18,000 and the phones he was supposed to deliver to De Los Reyes.

Ong was later released, it said.

According to the NBI, Binayug and company were subpoenaed to answer the charges and were given time to submit counter affidavits, but they failed to do so.

Honest employee reaps more awards

A WORKER who has received accolades after returning three million Japanese yen (P1.5 million) which he found at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport has been commended again, this time by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I commend you for your honesty. Inspiring true-to-life stories such as yours make us all proud of being a Filipino and stand 10 feet tall in the eyes of foreign nationals," the President said in her commendation to Romeo H. Pelaez, a messenger-janitor of DIAR's Assistance Inc.

Pelaez and his family were special guests of the President in Malacañang on her 58th birthday anniversary last April 4.

PELAEZ

Pelaez also received commendations from Japan Airlines, the Office of the Presidential Assistant on Culture, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and Sen. Bong Revilla.

Muggers in Pasay back to work

By Fran Katigbak

WILL IT be swift justice again?

Another foreigner was mugged in Pasay City a week after a Belgian parliamentarian fell victim to muggers, and later witnessed the police and local court's speedy resolution of the case.

German tourist Adrian Fischer, 46, was held up by two knife-wielding men at about 1:30 a.m. yesterday along F.B. Harrison Street in Pasay.

Police said Fischer was on his way back to Harrison Lodge, where he was billeted, after buying food when the suspects approached him.

The muggers took Fischer's wallet containing P9,000 and his passport.

Witnesses identified the suspects as Jerry Beronibla and Roberto Lauriano. Both worked as parking attendants.

Only recently, Victorio Mallari and an accomplice who remains at large held up Georges Brion, the Belgian representative to the Inter-Parliamentary Union assembly that ended last week.

Mallari was arrested later and found guilty of robbery in a record four days.

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BACCHUS gunner Mike Holper rises to the occasion again with a double-double effort against the Nenaco-San Beda squad. RUDY ESPERAS

Bacchus ends losing spell; Welcoat wins

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BACCHUS Energy Drink snapped a 14-game losing streak in the Philippine Basketball League yesterday, but not after almost losing a 28-point lead in a 67-59 decision of Nenaco-San Beda in the Unity Cup eliminations at the FEU gym.

The Energy Drinks held on in the face of a searing fourth quarter by the Lions and ended one of the league's longest losing streaks dating back to the Open conference while playing under the banner of Air Philippines.

GAMES TOMORROW
(*FEU Gym*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Nenaco
4 p.m.—Magnolia vs Granny Goose

Welcoat Paints also rode out Granny Goose's late charge to keep its unblemished slate with a 72-69 victory in the second game.

Two free throws by veteran Eugene Tan in the closing seconds bailed out the Paint Masters, who tie idle Montana Pawnshop for top spot with three straight win.

The Paint Masters led by 14 points early in the final canto before the Snack Masters chopped the lead to 70-69 with 10.3 to play following a Jet Latonio three-pointer.

But Latonio fouled Tan who gamely sank the game-clinching charities in the last 9.3 seconds. Jireh Ibañez lost the ball on the next play as Granny Goose sank to its second setback in three games.

Mike Holper finished with 15 points and 11 boards in leading Bacchus to a 1-2 card and leaving Nenaco-San Beda (0-3) as the only winless team in the young tournament.

Bacchus climbed into a tie with Magnolia Ice Cream and Toyota-Otis-Letran at 1-2.

Meanwhile, PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad said he was quoted out of context regarding his statement about "the presence of a cartel" within the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

"I wish to apologize to some good-hearted and enlightened members of the Chinese community, including our past and present team owners in the PBL."

Trinidad added: "It's just that the actuations of a misguided few have made it difficult for the Philippines to regain its lofty international standing in one of the sports that means so much to the *masa*."

The scores:

First Game

BACCHUS 67—Holper 13, Epondulan 13, Vizcarra 9, Cruz 8, Cordero 8, Butel 7, Hubalde 6, Te 3, Nallon 0, Uy 0.

NENACO 59—Paterno 18, Hudencial 9, Balvidia 8, Aljamal 8, Angeles 7, Cruz 6, De Guzman 2, Arbole 1, Timonera 0, Soriano 0, Arbole 0, Yousif 0, Gutilban 0.

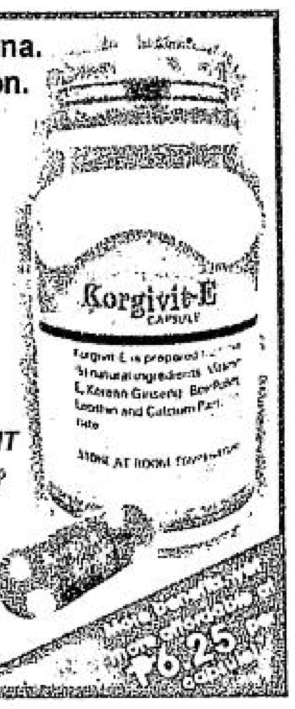
Quarters: 19-9, 33-21, 56-38, 67-59

Second Game

WELCOAT 72—Washington 21, Ortiguerra 11, Orbeta 11, Dy 8, Najorda 6, Tan 4, Gamboa 4, Coching 2, Junio 2, Guevarra 2.

GRANNY GOOSE 69—Ibañes 15, Lanete 12, Alofad 9, Latonio 9, Almeda 7, Grijaldo 6, Quiñahan 5, Guerrero 3, Cruz 2, Concha 1.

Quarters: 17-13; 37-26; 55-45; 72-69



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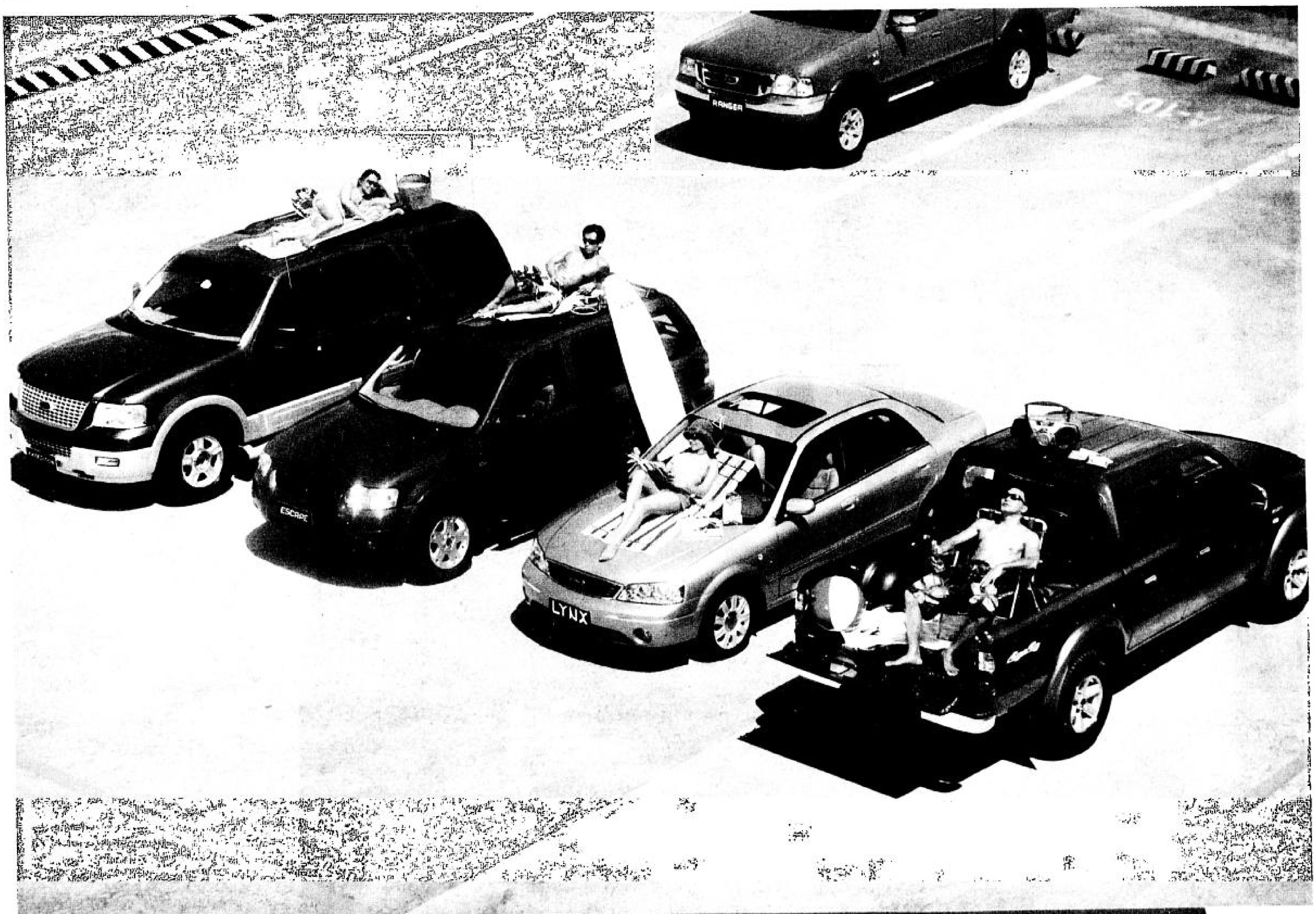

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Shell	5	3
Red Bull	4	3
Purefoods	4	4
Talk 'N Text	3	3
*Alaska	3	4
FedEx	3	4
*Coca-Cola	3	4
Sta. Lucia	2	6

*still playing at presstime

GAMES TODAY
(*Philsports Arena*)
4:45 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Purefoods
7:35 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs FedEx

After absorbing two straight setbacks, the Phone Pals have again summoned Jerald Honeycutt to beef them up against the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs at 4:45 p.m. today in the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference.

The 6-foot-8 Honeycutt will replace Noel Felix, who hardly made an impact during the Phone Pals' twin losses against the FedEx Express and the Coca-Cola Tigers.

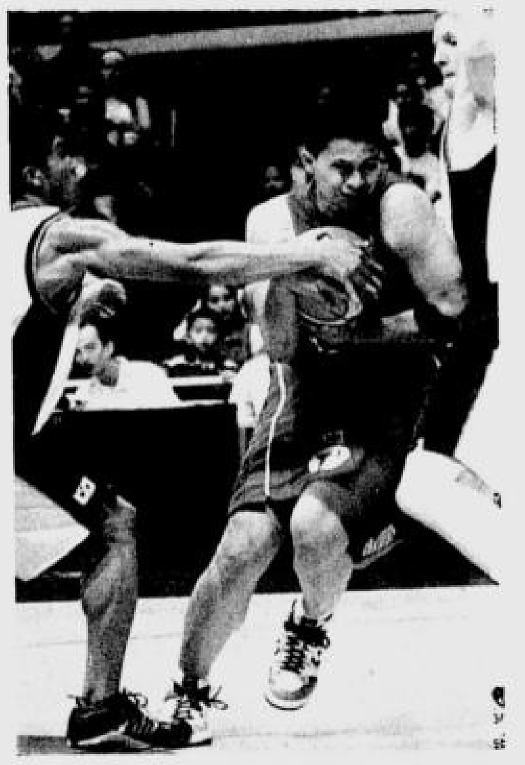
An old reliable who had perfectly blended with the Phone Pals, Honeycutt has played for Talk 'N Text countless times in the past, often as last-minute replacement for an inefficient import.

But this time, Honeycutt may be in for just a short stint since the Phone Pals are training their sights on 7-foot-2 behemoth Garth Joseph.

Scouting reports said Joseph had a brief stint with the Chicago Bulls and the Denver Nuggets during the 2000-2001 National Basketball Association season.

Joseph, who could easily be the tallest import in league history, recently played for Shanshi Dongshen in the Chinese Basketball League.

Meanwhile, San Miguel aims to bounce back from a stinging blow dealt by sister team Barangay Ginebra when the Beermen tangle with the FedEx Express at 7:35 p.m.

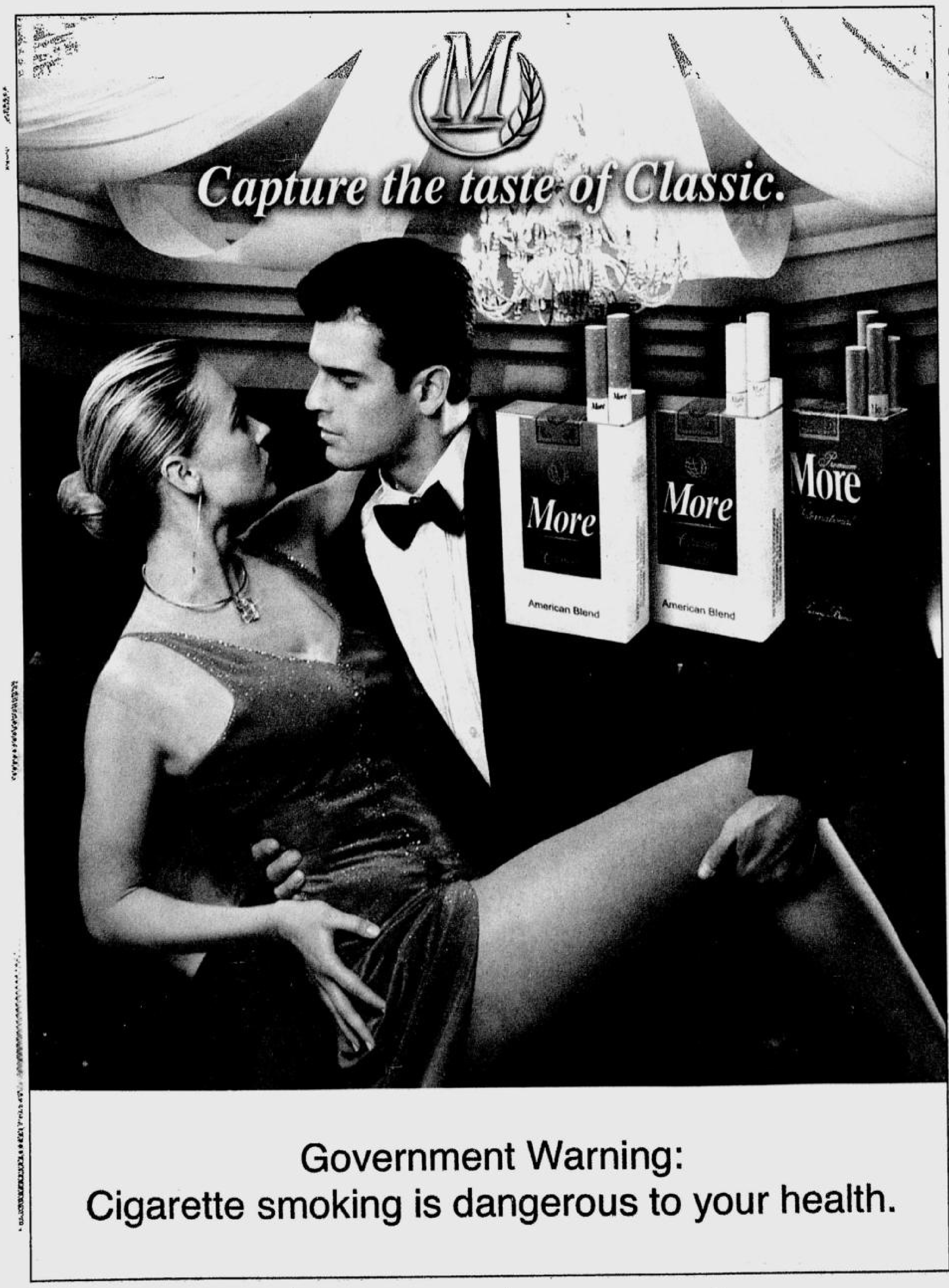


PUREFOODS' Jun Limpot (center) is harassed by Sta. Lucia's Nelbert Omolon and Ryan Fletcher during their game Wednesday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

A victory over the Express (3-4) would give the Beermen solo leadership. At 5-3, the Beermen are tied with the Shell Turbochargers and the Gin Kings at the top.

The Phone Pals are seeking a share of second place with the idle Red Bull Barako at 4-3.

The TJ Hotdogs are reeling from three straight defeats, the most recent to Sta. Lucia Realty last Wednesday. *June Navarro*



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SPORTSWATCH

Golf cart hole-in-one prize

A BRAND-NEW Club Car DS-model double-seater golf cart, courtesy of The Turf Company, is at stake as a hole-in-one prize in the Scholarship Fund-Raising Tournament slated April 22 at the Aguinaldo Golf Club. Organizers of the 18-hole tournament, members of 4-A class of the 1966 high school batch of Don Bosco Technical College in Mandaluyong City, said the event seeks to raise fund for its scholarship program. Two of its prominent alumni, PNP Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr. and GSIS vice president Arnulfo Madriaga are the tournament's co-chairs. Grand sponsor for the affair is the San Miguel Corp., while major sponsors, aside from The Turf Company, include Millennium Re Exchange, South Sea Surety and Insurance Co., United Laboratories and Precision Munitions. The tournament is also supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Pagcor and a host of other corporate and individual friends of the class. The P1,500 tournament fee includes green and caddy fees, lunch, giveaways and a raffle ticket. For inquiries, call 0920-961821 or 809-4423 or 809-0349.

NBC backs Air 21 caging

THE NATIONAL Basketball Conference (NBC) has thrown its support to the Air 21 6-foot-and-above national championship slated May 26 to June 4. The Basketball Association of the Philippines-sanctioned tournament will have two teams each from Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and National Capital Region. Games will be played in Metro Manila schools. The NBC will form the southern Luzon team. The league is open only to players born not later than 1988. The best performers in the Air 21 event will carry the Philippine colors in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (SEABA) junior championship this year. "This is our small contribution to basketball's grassroots development program," said NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla.

Atienza Boyaa rites guest

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza will be the guest of honor in today's opening of the 2005 edition of the Barrio Obrero Youth Athletic Association (Boyaa) summer basketball league in Tondo, Manila. Also invited to grace the ceremonies starting at 4 p.m. are San Miguel Beer cagers Danny Seigle, Olsen Racela, Dondon Hontiveros, Nic Belasco and Dorian Peña. A total of 42 teams will compete in the 51st year of the oldest streetball tournament in the country, which will have four age categories. ABC-5 will cover the opening of the tournament. This year's Boyaa president is multi-titled coach Boneng Discipulo.

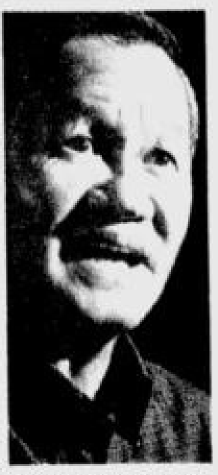
Pasay 5-cocker starts today

AT LEAST 60 fights are on tap in the JBB Connections 5-Cock Derby which unfolds today at the Pasay City Cockpit beginning at 6 p.m. The one-day derby hosted by derby regulars Blandy Tolentino of Laguna, Buboy dela Cruz and John Arceo is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B- 50 Forten. Seeing action are prominent members of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association and the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines as well as participants from Negros Occidental and Mindanao. Meanwhile, the seventh edition of PCCA 4-Cock Derby kicks off on April 22 with P300,000 at stake for an entry fee of P10,000. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

164 early birds at Roligon

WITH still two more weeks to go before the Game Ka Na Ba 5-cock Derby sizzles at Roligon Mega Cockpit, all indications point to another blockbuster. As of yesterday, 164 cockhouse reservations had been received as provincial entries continue to pour in. The first 100 participants will compete in the opening round on April 30, according to host Rolly Ligon who put up a guaranteed prize of P2 million and an imported Isuzu Big Horn 4 X 4 for the fastest-win champion. Entry fee is P6,600. Others who wish to register may join the remaining eliminations rounds on May 2 or 4, said Ligon. The championship round is slated on May 6. For inquiries, call 833-2275, 833-1636 and 852-9812.

POC unhappy over RP 5 debacle, mum on Lim case



COJUANGCO: RP quint not in shape.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco yesterday said he is not happy with the national basketball team's preparation for the Southeast Asian Games this November, but remained silent on the deportation proceedings against top cage official Graham Lim.

"I don't know about the deportation, but I'm not happy with the way basketball is going in its preparation for the SEA Games," Cojuangco told the INQUIRER in reaction to the recent debacle the SEAG-bound national team suffered against a team laced with movie stars and ex-pros.

"Their selection, their training program and their attitude on the SEA Games need a lot to be desired," added the POC chief as he expressed alarm over the seemingly dim prospects of retaining the basketball gold in the SEA Games.

The RP cagers, playing in commercial leagues as part of their buildup, bowed to the Parañaque Jets bannered by movie stars Richard Gomez and Antonio Aquintana, 63-56, in a championship match over the weekend.

POC media chief Joey Romasanta said the country should go all out to win the SEAG basketball gold despite the fact that the Philippines has dominated the sport since 1991.

Romasanta added that the POC frowns on the idea of sending a collegiate team to defend the SEAG crown when talents abound in the professional PBA and the semi-pro PBL.

While the national cagers are under fire, Lim was in deeper trouble after the Bureau of Immigration ordered Monday the deportation of the secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines because he is a Taiwanese citizen.

With BAP president Tiny Literal still recuperating from illness and Lim having problems of his own, Romasanta said other association officials should address the basketball issue.

"They (BAP) have a set of officials to run the association, it should not be concentrated on Graham alone," said Romasanta.

Meanwhile, at least 20 officials of national sports associations have signed a position paper pleading for President Macapagal-Arroyo's help in having the BI reconsider its deportation order on Lim.

"We believe he's more Filipino by heart compared to others who acquired Filipino citizenship just to exploit the country's economy," they said. "He was born and raised here and rendered his own share of service to the country."

Atienza rips nat'l high jump mark

By Musong R. Castillo

ARMYWOMAN Narcisa Atienza broke her own national high jump mark as locals won five of the first six gold medals staked at the start of the 2005 Milo National Open track and field championships yesterday.

The 24-year-old Atienza cleared 1.78 meters in her first try, surpassing her 2002 mark of 1.75, to bag gold and highlight a productive day for the Philippines in the 10-nation meet at the Rizal Memorial Oval.

The BS Education undergraduate went for the Southeast Asian Games bronze standard of 1.80 meters in her next two attempts but failed.

"There was no pressure out there, the opponents being juniors," said Atienza in Filipino. "My concern is really not the record, but to be prepared for the heptathlon in the Southeast Asian Games."

A native of Rosario, Batangas, Atienza is in her third year in the national pool and will be wearing the national colors for the second time in her career.

She wound up fourth in the heptathlon of the Vietnam SEAG and will be seeking to improve on a sixth place finish in the high jump when Manila and three other key cities host the biennial event in November.

Mitchell Martinez of the Philippine Navy heaved the shot put to a distance of 11.02 meters to win the gold easily over Charlene Payagan of TMS Shipping Lines and Marlin Dionisio. Payagan did 10.78 like Dionisio but took the silver on fewer attempts.

Comebacking Elma Muros-Posadas finished out of the medal in the shot put.

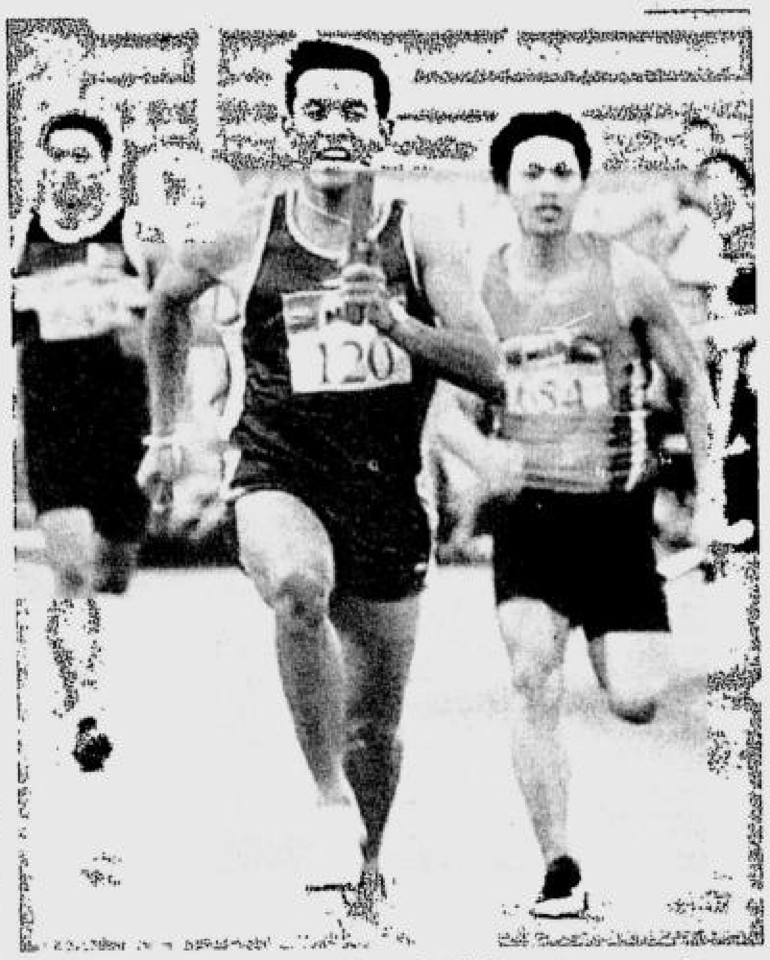
Edward Marmol of Mapua cleared 3.50 meters in the pole vault for gold, even as Roland Asan timed 53 minutes and 56.2 seconds to rule the 10,000-meter walk for boys early in the morning.

Sabah-Malaysia's Mary Jean Nakaran was the only foreigner to win a final, leaping to 5.57 meters to edge Laguna's Maricel Mariano in the girl's long jump. Mariano cleared 5.51 meters, while Ma. Arianne Lumasco of Far Eastern was third in 5.15.

Michael Embuedo of Philippine Army-Far Eastern won the 20,000-meter men's walk with ease, clocking one hour, 40 minutes and 53.3 seconds. Eric Tauro was the runner-up in 1:41:29.9.

Harry Canillo of the Philippine Navy was third at 1:47:45.3.

Day 2 of the event that drew a total of 10 nations and one squad made up of Fil-Americans from the United States will have 27 gold medals up for grabs.



SITTICHAI Suwonprateep anchors the Thai team to an easy victory in the second heat of the men's 4x100m relay semifinals. MITCH MAURICIO

UP archer tops 4 records

YOUTHFUL University of the Philippines scholar Amaya Paz broke four archery records during the recent first qualifying tournament for the national team to the 2005 Southeast Asian Games here late this year at the UP-PSC range in Quezon City.

The 19-year-old psychology sophomore shot 1366, 339, 341 and 357 points in the single FITA round, 60 meters, 50m and 30m, respectively, in the compound bow class.

Paz wiped out the 1344, 336, 321 and 341 marks in the single FITA round, 60m, 50m and 30m, respectively, set by Janina Bianca Ortiz in May 2003 also at the UP-PSC range.

Ortiz established the fifth record, scoring 330 points in the 70 meters to erase the 318 set by Paz last year.

2 missing pencak silat bets held

ALJABAR Sangkula and Mark Cometa, two of the six national pencak silat players who opted to stay in Paris illegally, are in the process of being deported to the Philippines after being caught by French authorities two days ago. Immigration authorities in France reportedly have both athletes in custody, according to Guillermo Iroy, the executive director of the Philippine Sports Commission. "We've heard of that development," Iroy said. But we are still trying to confirm them. If true, they (athletes) will be deported anytime now." Sangkula, Cometa and four others have visas expiring on April 23, the day after the deadline given by the PSC, which has sought the help of the Department of Foreign Affairs for the cancellation of their passports. *Musong R. Castillo*

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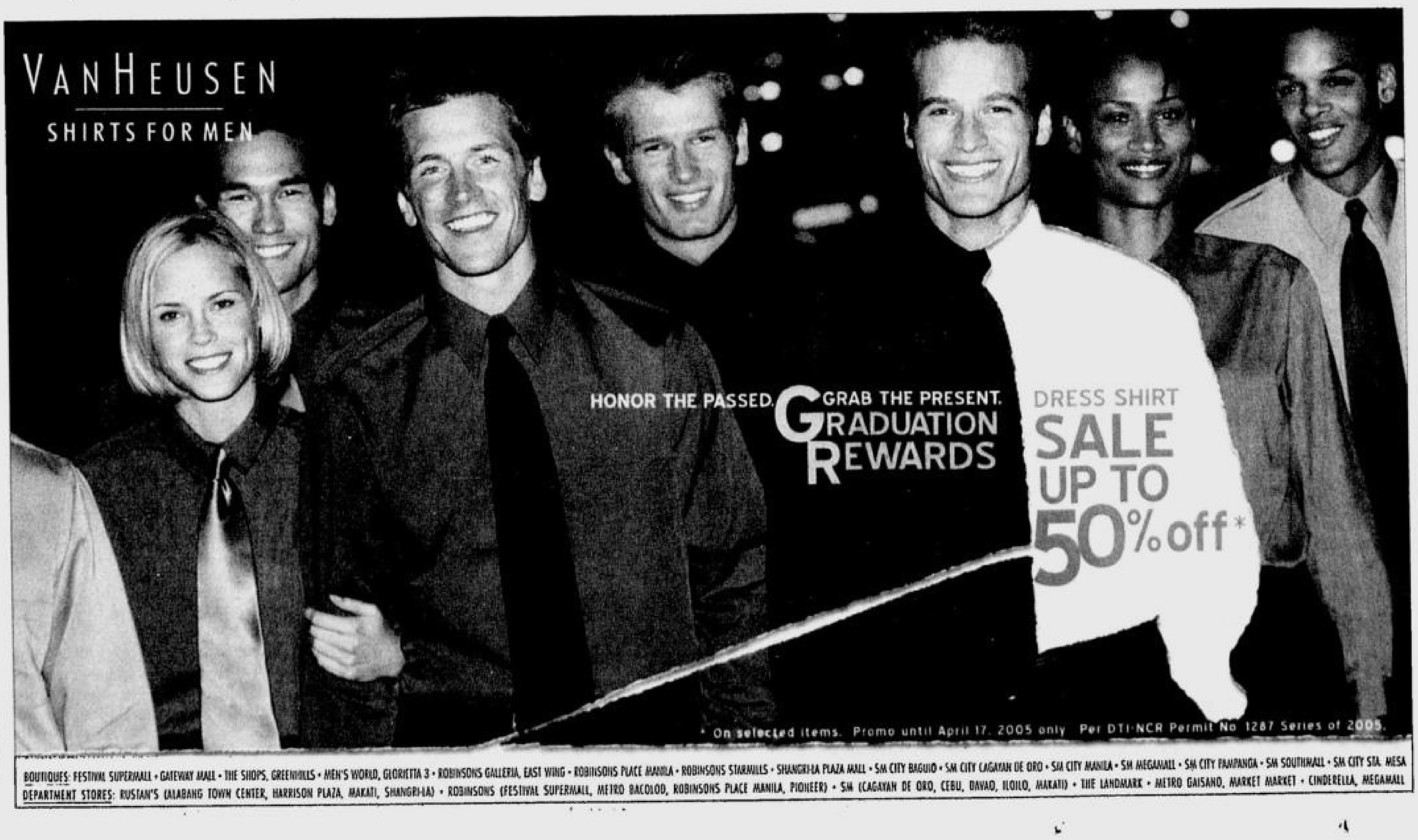
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MY Games set colorful opening

A FESTIVE show of songs, music and dances at the historic Rizal Memorial Sports Complex will usher in the fourth Manila Youth Games (MY Games) this Sunday.

A cheering competition, an acrobatic show featuring former street children, a taekwondo demonstration and fireworks display are the other highlights of the opening show of the Big City games which is expected to be one of the liveliest and biggest this year.

Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chair of the organizing Manila Sports Council (MASCO), said the two-hour ceremony also includes the awarding of plaques of recognition to Manila's sports greats.

"We expect to open the 4th MY Games with a bang… and hope that the competition will be as exciting among the city's youth," said the son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Atienza said the MY Games, supported by Red Bull, San Miguel Corp., Globe Telecoms, Solar Sports, Super Ferry, Milo, IntrASports, Concept Movers, Philippine Sports Commission, and PAGCOR, will serve as a qualifying event for members of Team MayniLA for the 1st MY Games National Invitational in September.

City Hall's various service departments, the Division of City Schools, Kabataan ng Maynila and Kababaihan ng Maynila have thrown their full support behind the endeavor.

An estimated 10,000 athletes 17 years old and under from the 897 barangays and 130 public and private schools in Manila will see action in athletics, badminton, baseball, chess, dancesports, football, gymnastics, softball, swimming, table tennis, lawn tennis, taekwondo, volleyball and paralympics.

Leading Manila's sports greats who will be honored are basketball's Gabriel "Gabby" Fajardo and athletics' Ben Silva Netto.

ATIENZA

Jaworski builds own team for TM 9-Ball

PASIG Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski Jr. yesterday expressed confidence he can build a strong team from the first batch of winners in last weekend's pre-qualifying tournament of the TM 9-Ball Champions League held in four Pasig venues.

Angelo Lacson, who topped the Santolan eliminations, took home the overall title and the P10,000 cash prize from Jaworski, who also made him the top pick for the Pasig squad.

Jaworski supervised the conduct of the prequalifying tournament for the Touch Mobile event that is also backed by Accel and Brunswick.

William Gamas, runner-up in the Ugong eliminations, surprised the field when he placed second to win P5,000. Troy Danao and Michael Despi placed third and fourth, respectively. Danao took home P2,500, while Despi bagged P1,500.

Lacson also took home an extra P3,000 prize for winning the Santolan eliminations also held the same day. Jose Andres was second in the elims and got P2,000, while Gerry Cabanes was third and Buboy Tulaton fourth.

Eneng Marcaide won the Pinagbuhatan elims, followed by Ramil Delfin, Michael Mamales and Zeerjay Cruz, in that order.

Kapasigan saw Despi taking home the P3,000 top prize while Jojie Empillo, Ruben Cena and Emmanuel Alfonso joined him in the winners' circle.

Ugong had Troy Danao, William Games, JR Natividad and Michael Dillera as winners.

"I believe in these players' talents and, given the proper opportunities, I see no reason why they will not make it big in billiards very soon," Jaworski said after the affair that featured more than 300 billiards players from Pasig.

"I thank Touch Mobile and the organizers of the TM 9-Ball Champions League, led by Ramon Tuason, for giving us a venue to compete in."

Asistio prevails by 16 shots, Superal by 37

RUNAWAY win for Asistio.

TONTON Asistio and Wolen Superal broke par twice in three rounds to easily top their respective divisions in the third leg of the Samsung Jungolf Tour held recently at the par-72 Tat Pilipinas Golf Club in San Pedro, Laguna and Riviera executive course in Silang, Cavite.

The 15-year-old Asistio, a standout of the Manila Southwoods squad which ruled the Philippine Airlines Interclub last February, fired rounds of 71, 73 and 70 for a 214 aggregate to win by 16 strokes over Gino Bunyi and Korean Lee Seung-moon in boys' Class A (15-17 years).

The tournament, backed by Samsung, Philippine Airlines and Unilever Phils., also served as the official local qualifier to the Asia-Pacific championships, with Asistio already assuring himself of a slot.

AREVALO

Superal was unchallenged in boys' Class C (11-12 years), highlighting his victory with a spectacular nine-under 63 in the final round. He shot a 74 and 70 in the first two days for a 207 aggregate, nine under par and 37 shots over runner-up Emmanuel Kishida.

Joining Asistio and Superal as division winners were Jik Jik Abdon in Class B, Bino dela Paz in Class D, AR Ramos in Class E and Tommy Agojo in Class F.

In the girls' side, Bambee dela Paz captured the Class A crown, Cyna Rodriguez ruled Class B, Dottie Ardina won Class C, Erica Carangalan clinched Class D, Abby Arevalo dominated Class E and Kim Min-ji topped Class F.

Two weeks after suffering her first defeat in a long time, former world age-group champion Ardina regained lost ground, beating Katya dela Cruz by a whopping 15 shots.

The player who beat her, Ma-an Legaspi, however, did not compete.

The jungolfers train their sights on the grueling Junior World qualifying starting next week in Canlubang and Riviera executive course. They play Sherwood Hills and Riviera executive course the week after, with the winners earning berths in the RP delegation for the San Diego meet.

Ramos nailed the toughest win during the leg, needing a 54 in the final round to slip past Miggy Yee by just a stroke and Anthony Arevalo by two. Abby Arevalo dominated Janella Buen in their duel, 191-206, while newcomer Agojo also came up with a surprise runaway win.

Wushu, tai chi classes open at ACC

THE ALABANG Wushu Club opened its wushu classes for kids and teenagers with a bang Tuesday at the Alabang Country Club (ACC).

The classes also offer tai chi, another form of wushu, which will be done simultaneously in the same summer clinic.

The ACC will have the wushu and tai chi classes three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

The club offers a healthy lifestyle to practitioners and provides athletes in other sports a cross-training program in Chinese martial arts.

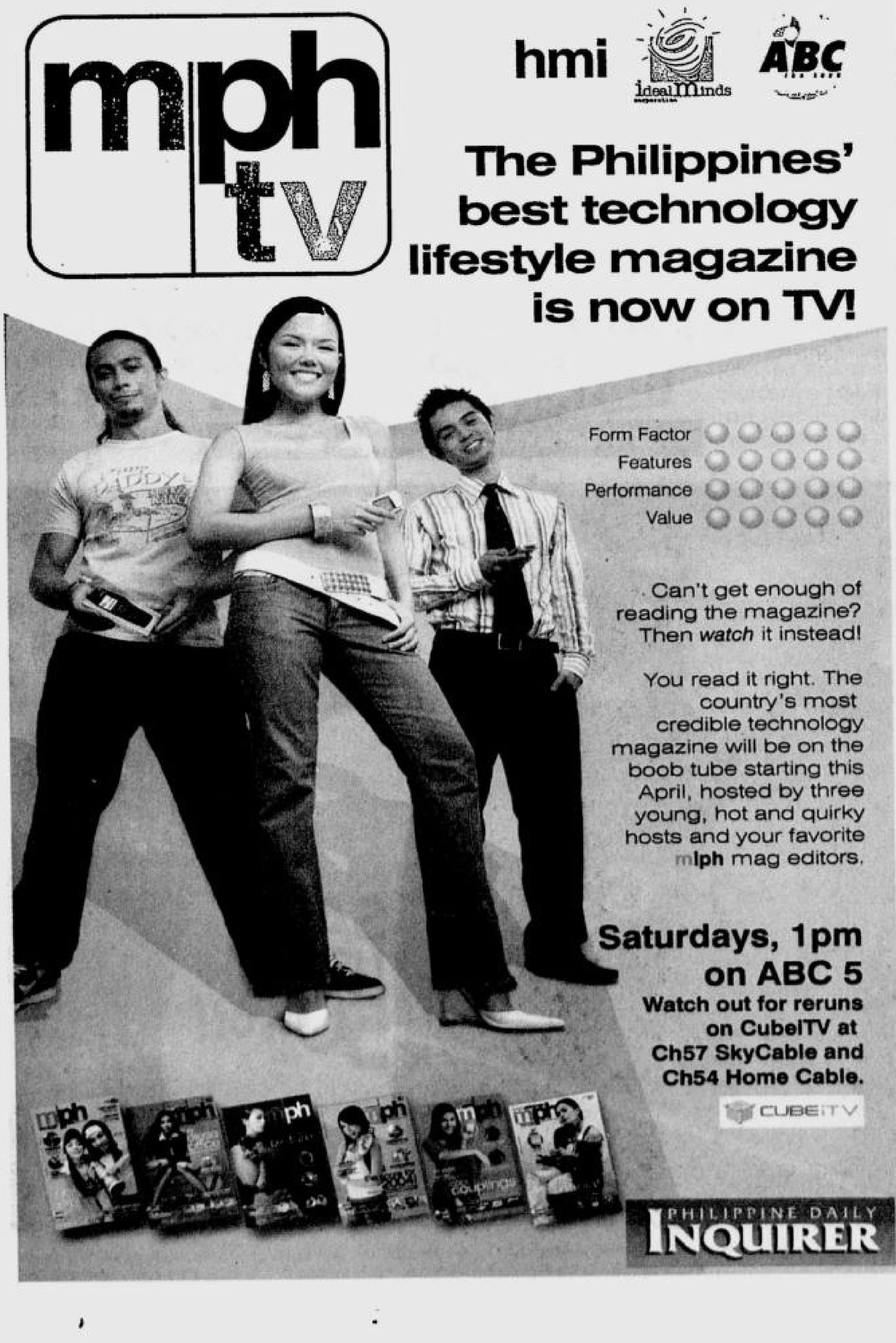
World-class athletes, led by program director Stella Unson, handle the club's training. Unson won a gold each in the 1996 Southeast Asian wushu championships and the 1997 Asian meet.

Unson, ranked no. 4 in the 1995 World Wushu Championships in Baltimore, Maryland, trained in tai chi in China as part of the national wushu squad.

The tai chi classes are sponsored by Enervon Prime.

Wushu classes for kids and teenagers will be handled by Gary Cua of the Wushu Federation of the Philippines. Also a veteran internationalist, Cua trained in China as an athlete and then as a coach and judge.

For inquiries, call 842-3530 or 0917-9761670.



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Tio Vicente

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THEY will bury today, Friday, Vicente Ferro, the man they called Mr. Dignified. He was from Calauag, a coastal town in Quezon famous for its delicious red, giant crabs. People going to—and coming back from—Bicol almost make it a habit to stop in Calauag and buy baskets of the town's favorite produce, especially those with private rides. One of them is Al Fernandez, the commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration.

"I don't know, but each time I go by car to Bicol, I always make it a point to make a stop in Calauag to buy crabs," said Fernandez, the former mayor of Dagupan City. "Strange, since we also happen to have some of the best varieties of crabs in Dagupan City."

He said the Calauag crab "has that distinct taste that sets it apart from the other varieties found all over our archipelago."

I believe him. My wife comes from Calauag; she is a niece of Tio Vicente. First degree.

Since we got married, it was almost a crime if we would come home from Calauag to Manila without at least a basket of crabs.

The first time I met Tio Vicente in my first ever trip to Calauag, he had a plate of Calauag crabs set on the table.

"That's our *pulutan*," he said.

That was decades ago, the meeting triggering a lasting relationship that became anchored, basically, on crabs and—you guessed it right—cognac, the cognac here defined by Tio Vicente as a drink of any kind, brand, that makes you tipsy, if not dizzy, at day's end.

"Am sure you have a cognac with you or we won't have crabs," he would say during each of the succeeding trips I made to Calauag, which were numerous of course.

Tio Vicente and I are ages apart. He was 34 years old when I was born. Yet, the first time we met—I was in my twenties—we struck it off right away.

"I am really proud to have you as part of the family," he said the first time we met. "Your reputation has preceded you."

And what was that reputation, Tio Vicente?

"Oh, that?" he said. "You really want to know?"

"Yes," Sol Ferro-Juvida said.

"That your hubby can out-drink me," he said, looking Sol straight in the eye.

He boxed in his youth and you could see it in his physique: Short, stocky, short and large neck, broad shoulders. He was almost a bantamweight.

"He could punch," said Tatay Orio of Tio Vicente, about 5 feet 4. "He had a mean right cross."

Because his grandfather was half Spanish and his mother was pure Spanish (Santayana), Tio Vicente was too handsome a boxer. It was his movie-idol looks that made his relatives force him out of the sweet science.

"I switched to weightlifting," he said. "And my favorite lift is a glass filled with cognac. No ice."

Like many of my friends, both living and dead, Tio Vicente was a drinker, never an alcoholic.

When there was a bottle to kill, it's got to be killed. If there was none, he'd look for a friend who had one. If the search yields none, we'd kill time by talking about the good, old days. Just a pitcher of water, if not coconut juice, fueling the conversation.

Tio Vicente was a master storyteller.

Always brimming with a sense of humor, he could clown his way to a climactic ending for every story he told. All the time that he was storytelling, his nephews, nieces and grandchildren were also gathered around him. He delighted both the adult and the young with his wit. At times, he would spike his storytelling with a song. Usually jazz. And boogie-woogie. Dancing passionately to every note that he would dish out-with gusto. "Oh Johnny, oh Johnny…" was his all-time favorite.

Walking was his way of keeping trim and fit for a good part of his last 20 years on earth. Oh, how he roamed the streets and byways of Calauag in the morning, waving at friends and non-friends alike as he walked by them.

The last few years of his life, he had slowed down. Then about five years ago, he quit drinking.

Still, when he was 86 years old, he obliged to a double shot of cognac Dante Fernandez, my *bilas* and I had offered him at the house of Ate Lu Tolentino and Ate Coring Paraon in Calauag.

"To the good, old days," he said, heartily. "*Hala, vengga, vengga!*"

That was two years ago, in May of 2003.

"There's this stabbing pain in my heart," he said after gulping it down by way of explaining his reason for "retiring" from drinking. "The warning sign has come."

On April 8 this year, the day our Pope John Paul II was being laid to rest, Tio Vicente died—peacefully as when our Pope also breathed his last. Unlike John Paul II, though, Tio Vicente didn't leave a last will and testament. All he asks of his relatives and friends, he said to me in 2003, is to "be happy at all times."

At 9 this morning, all of Calauag bids farewell to its most dignified son, who was all of 88 summers.

A classic of his that he said to me in 2003 was this: "My beef with life is, I got old."

Southwoods Seniors Cup tees off today

MORE than 100 senior parbusters and guests are seeing action in the first Southwoods Seniors Cup which tees off today at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

The Manila Southwoods Seniors group, headed by president Ben Borja, is organizing the one-day tournament to form the 735-strong elder members of the club into one association and to create more events for them.

Elected officers for 2005 MSW Seniors along with Borja are Bernie Bernardo (VP), Rod Pepito (treasurer), Peping Cedo (auditor), and directors Buddy Cabrera, Mel Gozum, Charlie Santos and Fred Carandang. Billy Gualberto is ex-oficio chair and director.

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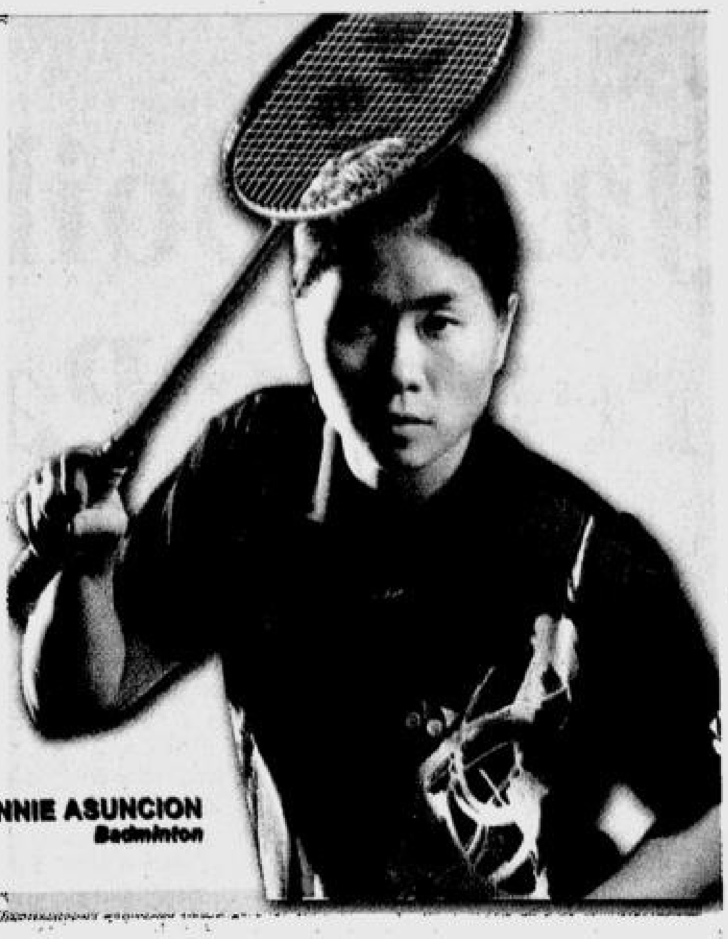
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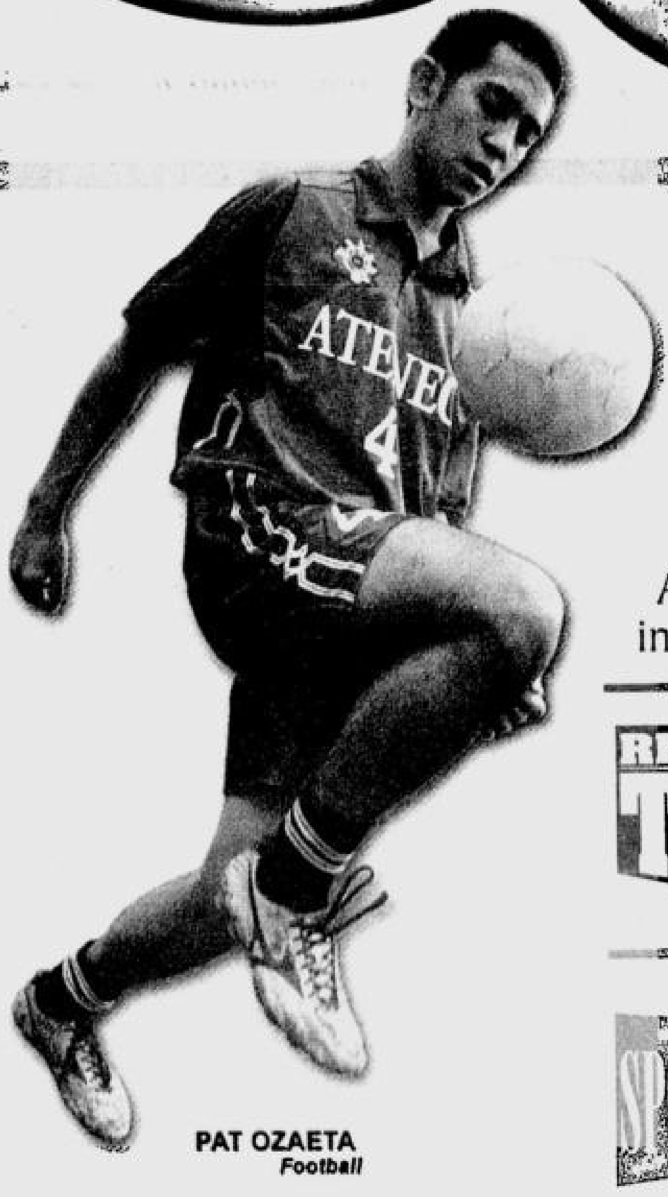
LEAD to GOLD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Jazz spoil Duncan's return; Pacers gain

TORONTO—Mehmet Okur nailed 25 points to earn the Utah Jazz a 93-91 win over San Antonio on Wednesday, spoiling Tim Duncan's return from injury and denting his team's hopes of finishing the season with the league's best record.

Twice NBA MVP Duncan, who had missed nearly a month with a badly sprained ankle, made a solid return for the Spurs, hitting for 17 points and snaring seven rounds.

Okur, who scored the winning bucket with two seconds to play, also had a big night on the boards pulling in 16 rebounds, while Matt Harpring added 17 points.

Manu Ginobili had 21 points in a losing cause for the Spurs (58-21) who lost ground to the idle Phoenix Suns (59-19) for top spot in the overall standings.

In Indianapolis, Reggie Miller poured in 22 points and Stephen Jackson added 17 as the Indiana Pacers rallied past the New Jersey Nets 90-86 to clinch their eighth straight playoff berth.

Reaching the postseason was a major accomplishment for the Pacers especially as they lost all-stars Ron Artest and Jermaine O'Neal to record suspensions for their part in a brawl during a Detroit Pistons game last November.

The Nets remain in the chase for final Eastern conference playoff spot despite the loss.

In Washington, Larry Hughes scored 23 points, Gilbert Arenas added 21 and Antawn Jamison had 19 points and 14 rebounds as the Wizards thumped the Chicago Bulls 93-82 to secure their first playoff spot since 1997.

The Bulls could meet the Wizards in the opening round of the NBA playoffs.

In Milwaukee, Paul Pierce scored 32 points, including a game-winning jumper with 19 seconds to play, to give Boston an 111-108 win over the Bucks and send the Celtics into the playoffs.

Antoine Walker and Ricky Davis each chipped in with 17 points for the Celtics while Michael Redd had 28 for the Bucks, who lost their third consecutive game.

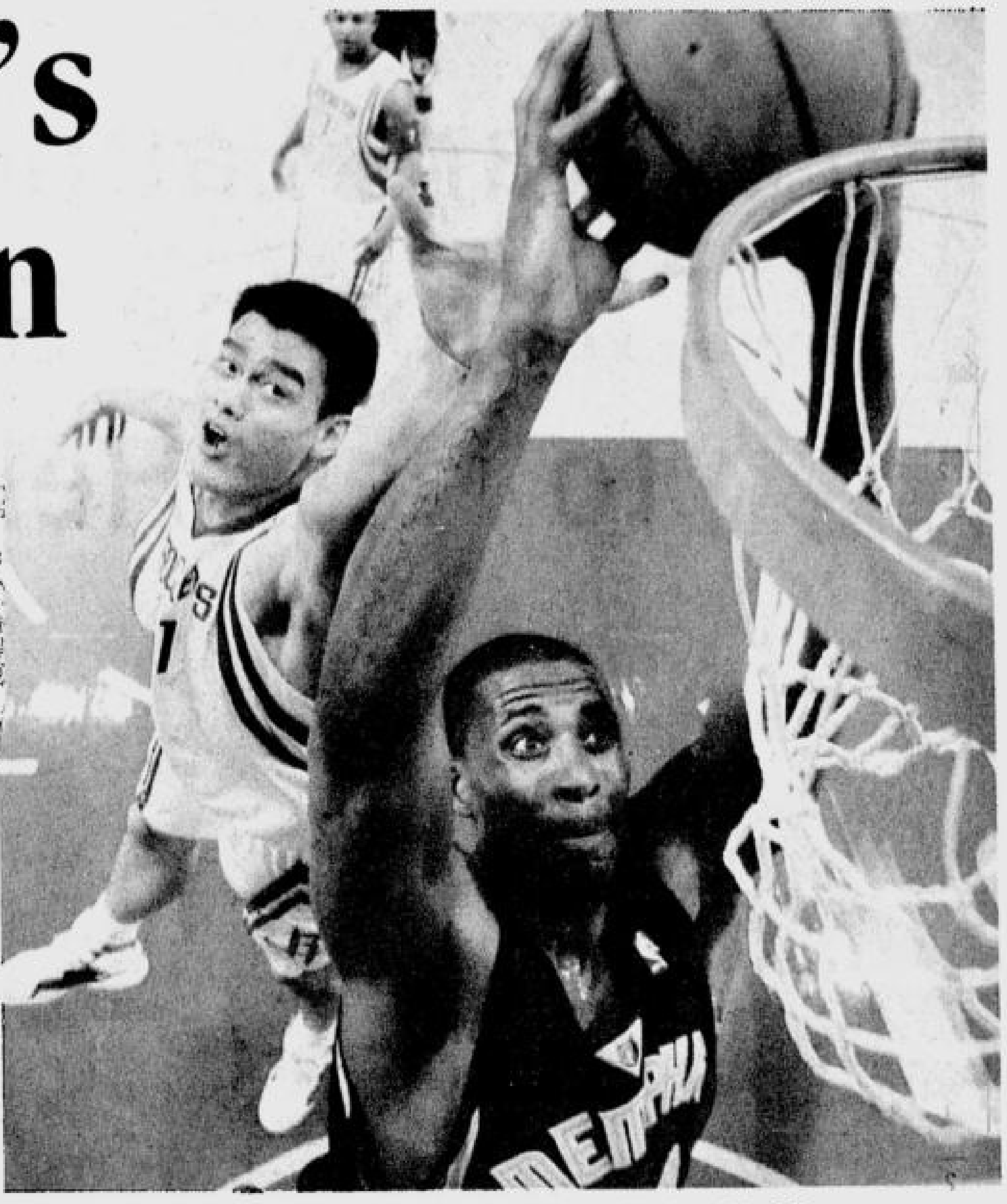
In Minneapolis, NBA MVP Kevin Garnett recorded his first triple-double of the season with 21 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists to lead the Minnesota Timberwolves past Golden State, 116-100, and keep their slim playoff hopes alive.

The triple-double was the 17th of Garnett's career but the first since the opening round of last year's playoffs against the Denver Nuggets.

If the Timberwolves are to have any hope of returning to the postseason, they must close out the regular season on a winning run and get some help from Memphis.

The Grizzlies were prevented from locking up a playoff berth by a 100-92 loss to the Rockets in Houston but need just one win in their last four games to clinch a playoff spot and eliminate the Timberwolves.

In Charlotte, the Bobcats posted a 105-84 win over the Hawks, guaranteeing the Hawks last place in the NBA standings and the most chances at the number one pick in this year's draft lottery. *Reuters*



GRIZZLIES' Lorenzen Wright dunks against the defense of Rockets' Yao Ming. AP

CHINESE TAIPEI

TAEKWONDO CHAMP: Mexican Edna Diaz (right) fights Su Lee Wen of Taipei during their women's under 63 kg finals match at the Taekwondo World Championships in Madrid, April 13. Diaz won. AFP

This Lion an Archer for just a day

By Dennis U. Eroa
INQUIRER Libre Sports Editor

A GREEN Archer for a day.

In a sudden twist, Rogemar 'Ogie' Menor, a former NCAA juniors MVP for San Beda, slept for a night at the La Salle men's basketball dorm in Taft before making a disappearing act the next day.

Reached by the INQUIRER, the 18-year-old Menor, who claimed he's suffering from the flu, declared he's playing for San Beda.

"I can't leave my school," said Menor.

The 6-foot-3 Menor was earlier quoted in a press release as saying, "I've always wanted to play for La Salle."

While his adviser Charlie Dy fumed with Menor's move, multi-titled La Salle coach Franz Pumaren took the incident in stride.

"That's his (Menor) decision. To set the record straight, Menor through Charlie came to us and asked for a dorm. We didn't force him or dangle anything for him. La Salle isn't going to figure in a tug-of-war for the services of a player. That is not our style," stressed Pumaren.

Dy confirmed Pumaren's statement. "It was Ogie who asked me to bring him to La Salle Taft. He cannot deny this. Now I pity this player. He's young and full of promise but something is wrong with his attitude. I felt so bad," Dy said.

Dy counts among his wards the likes of PBA players Ronald Tubid and Cris Calaguio (Shell) and Paul Artadi (Purefoods). He is also the agent of Welcoat's Anthony Washington, a sure first round 2005 PBA draft pick.

Menor told the INQUIRER that he was at Alabang with a priest-spiritual adviser. The priest, who begged off from being identified, also confirmed that Menor is staying with him at the Mendiola campus.

Dy gave the INQUIRER a chronology of events regarding Menor's decision to transfer to La Salle.

"It was Ogie's decision all the way. Of course, La Salle is interested to get him, but it was Ogie, who told me to bring him to La Salle," Dy stressed.

Pumaren said Menor even watched the Archers' practice last Monday at the Razon Sports Center at Taft.

"He asked for a room and was given one. He brought in his personal belongings including trophies, etc and spent Tuesday night at the dorm," Dy said.

"Then he was gone the next morning."

Dy said Menor sent him a text message Wednesday saying he's not leaving San Beda. The text message reads: "*Kahit magalit na kayong lahat sa akin, pasensyahan na coach. Hindi ko talaga iiwan ang San Beda* (Even if all of you get mad, I won't leave San Beda)."

Menor could have boosted the stock of the Archers who will defend the UAAP men's basketball title this year. Menor was supposed to add depth to Pumaren's rotation with the absence of Mac Cardona, who has decided to turn pro this year.

Davenport advances as Myskina stumbles

CHARLESTON, South Carolina—Anastasia Myskina's preparations for the defense of her French Open title suffered another setback on Wednesday as she lost to 15-year-old Czech Nicole Vaidisova in the Family Circle Cup second round.

World number one Lindsay Davenport, defending champion Venus Williams and former number one Justine Henin-Hardenne advanced but Myskina's poor form continued as she suffered her second early exit in as many weeks, losing, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, to the teenager.

Vaidisova, the world number 49, attacked Myskina's second serve to great effect, taking the opening set and breaking to lead 4-3 in the second.

Top seed Davenport, chasing back-to-back titles on clay for the first time after her victory at Amelia Island, cruised past world number 129 Marie-Eve Pelletier of Canada, 6-2, 6-2, to set up a clash with another qualifier, Viktoriya Kutuzova of Ukraine.

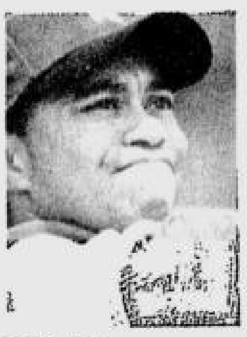
In the night match, Venus Williams opened the defense of her title with a 7-6, 6-2 victory over Czech Denisa Chladkova.

Henin-Hardenne scrambled past 19-year-old Peng, the world .no. 48, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. Former French Open champion Mary Pierce suffered a surprise 6-4 7-6 loss to unseeded Spaniard Nuria Llagostera Vives. *Reuters*

NICOLE Vaidisova celebrates her victory over Anastasia Myskina. AFP

Nike sees dollar signs in Woods' magical chip shot

BEAVERTON, Oregon—It was a Masters moment that will forever linger in memory: Tiger Woods' chip shot crawling to the lip of the cup, the ball teetering for what seemed like an eternity, its tiny swoosh slowly rolling up into view before dropping in.



WOODS

For Woods, it was a triumph. For Nike, it was a marketing coup—and a lucky one.

Some 2,750 miles (4,400 km) away from the 16th hole at Augusta National, Nike Golf's director of marketing Chris Mike was scrambling for the phone. Nike, he suggested to a colleague, had the makings of its new ad campaign.

Through its nearly decade-long alliance with Woods, Nike has sought to gain ground in the golf equipment and apparel market. The company has a 9 percent slice of the golf ball market that's dominated by Titleist and Callaway Golf.

Because Woods hadn't won a major for two years, some believed that the perception of Nike equipment was tarnished, said Paul Swangard, director of the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center at the University of Oregon.

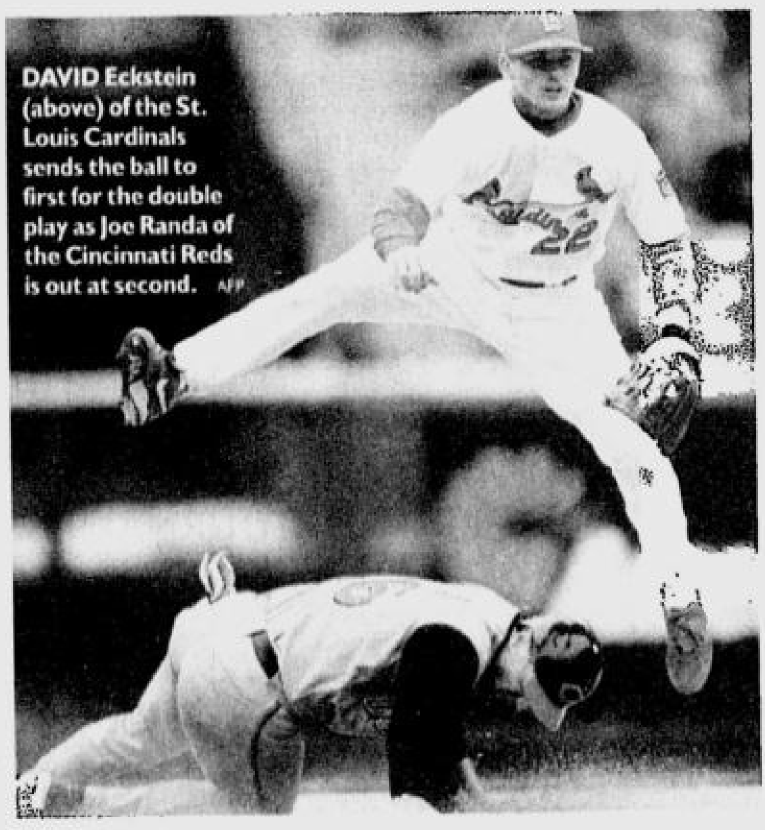
Then came the shot.

"It really reinforced what Nike has been trying to get across—that they're a leading performance golf brand," Swangard said.

In another stroke of luck for Nike, the very ball that Woods seemed to telekinetically will into the cup — the One Platinum — hits the market next month. It will retail for a pricey $54 (euro42) a dozen.

Nike first paired itself with Woods back in 1996. He signed a five-year endorsement deal with the company in 2000 for a reported $100 million (euro77 million), and has become such a major part of the company's endorsement stable that he has a building named after him at Nike's headquarters campus in Beaverton, a suburb of Portland.

Whether Nike can capitalize on Woods' feat through an ad campaign remains to be seen, however; Nike said it is working with Augusta National, which owns the rights to the footage. "It was exciting because it was a great moment in sports, and we always celebrate great moments in sports," said Nike Golf spokeswoman Joani Komlos. *AP*



DAVID Eckstein (above) of the St. Louis Cardinals sends the ball to first for the double play as Joe Randa of the Cincinnati Reds is out at second. AFP

Nationals prevail on Guillen 2 homers

ATLANTA—Jose Guillen homered twice, becoming the first player in the major leagues with five this season, and the Washington Nationals beat the Atlanta Braves, 11-4, on Wednesday before heading home for their first game at RFK Stadium.

The Nationals play their home opener on Thursday, the capital's first regular-season game since the expansion Senators became the Texas Rangers after the 1971 season. President George W. Bush, the Rangers' former owner, is scheduled to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Tomo Ohka (1-1) won despite walking six in six innings. He gave up three runs and four hits, leaving with a 5-3 lead.

John Thomson (1-1) allowed four runs, seven hits and four walks in six innings.

Braves manager Bobby Cox was ejected by plate umpire Randy Marsh in the first inning, his first ejection of the season.

At St. Louis, Mark Mulder (0-1) allowed six runs and 11 hits in five innings in his second outing for the Cardinals, his ERA rising to 8.18.

Austin Kearns hit a three-run homer and Joe Randa had three hits for the Reds.

Matt Belisle (1-1) got his second career win, allowing one run in five innings in his first major league start.

Kearns hit his first homer of the year to help the Reds win for the first time in five road games. *AP*

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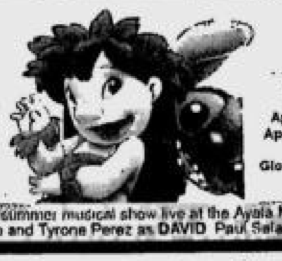

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	4 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR	5 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS	6 THE WEDDING DATE	7 HIDE & SEEK
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SAHARA 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	2 THE WEDDING DATE 11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SAMARA (RING 2) 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE WEDDING DATE 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 CLOSER 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FINDING NEVERLAND 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SAHARA 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE WEDDING DATE	2 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS		
	3 SAMARA (RING 2)	4 FINDING NEVERLAND	5 SAHARA	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SAMARA (RING 2)	2 THE PACIFIER	3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2	4 SAHARA

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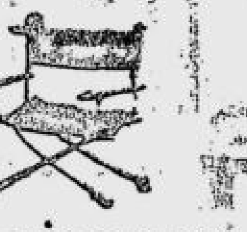

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April 17 to 20
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11am-9pm, Activity Center

SPORTS

1st running clinic up Sunday

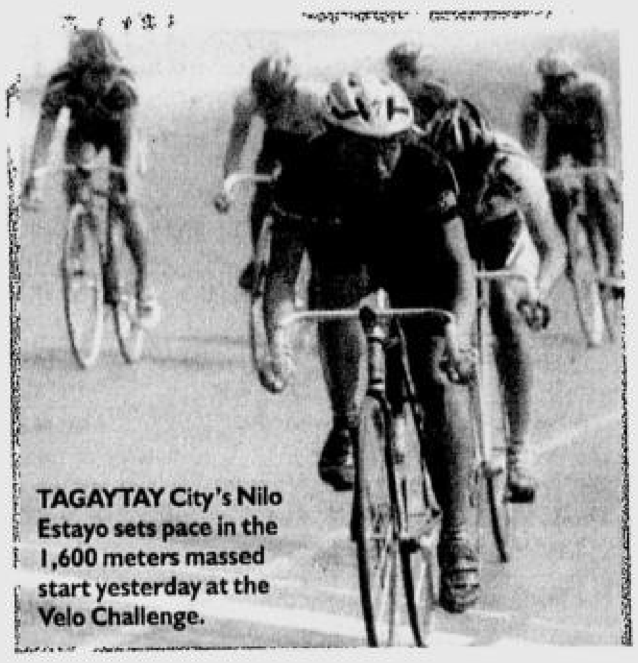
THE FIRST of three running clinics for the New Balance Power Race unfolds this Sunday at the Rockwell Strip in Rockwell Plaza in Makati. The clinic is open to beginners, intermediate and advance runners desiring to participate in the forthcoming New Balance Power Race slated May 29.

This Sunday's clinic speaker is Marc Velasco of the Sports Medicine Association of the Philippines and a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy. Over the years, Mark Velasco had extensive experience in sports rehabilitation, strength and conditioning of athletes and performance enhancement techniques. He has also conducted clinics for coaches, athletes, professional and lay people.

The New Balance running clinic is free. The first ten groups with four members each to register for this Sunday's clinic will receive New Balance t-shirts. After the three Sunday clinics, the culminating run will be held at the Glorietta activity center in Makati where certificates of completion will be issued.

Last year, the New Balance Power race attracted over 3,000 runners.

Palawan bets lead Velo tilt


TAGAYTAY City's Nilo Estayo sets pace in the 1,600 meters massed start yesterday at the Velo Challenge.

LLOYD Santos of Puerto Princesa City bagged two gold medals yesterday to lead the surge in Day Six of the First Philippine Velo Challenge at the Amoranto Velodrome in Quezon City.

Santos, a supervisor at PLDT, dominated the Executives 1,600-meter massed start (two minutes and 32.47 seconds) and the 2,000-meter individual pursuit (2:51.59) of the event co-presented by the First Gentleman's Foundation of Lawyer Jose Miguel Arroyo and Air21 (Sagot Ko, Padala Mo!)-Tour Pilipinas Inc..

His teammate, Virgilio Valenzuela, finished first in the Masters 1,600-meter massed start (2:19.19) to push Mayor Edward Hagedorn's team in contention in the overall team standings of the Velo Challenge also supported by Pagcor, the Philippine Sports Commission and Philippine Olympic Committee, Isuzu D-Max (the Philippines' No. 1 Pickup), Sharp Phils., San Miguel Corp.-Viva Mineral Water, Vittoria Tires, 93.9 iFM, RMN dzXL 558, David's Salon and Intrasports and aired over dzSR Sports Radio 918 khz.

Marites Bitbit, the other two-gold winner, continued to set the standard in the Elite women's class after she won the 3,000-meter individual pursuit (4:35.85 seconds) and the 1,600-meter massed start (2:30.46 seconds).

Bitbit's teammate Gerardo Amar gave Elixir Bike Shop its third gold medal of the day after the member of the national coaching staff topped the Veterans 1,600-meter massed start (2:30.7 seconds) of the event that is part of the PhilCycling's calendar for its preparation for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in November.

Tagaytay International Convention Center (TICC) of Mayor Bambol Tolentino, which won three golds, finished first in the Elite men's 1,600-meter massed start (Nilo Estayo, 2:05.36), the Juniors 1,600-meter massed start (Jan Paul Morales, 2:00.10) and the Junior-Elite men's Olympic sprint.

EPSON CUP 2

Badminton picks seek semis

SURVIVORS from the grueling elimination round of the Epson Cup 2 badminton championship continue their quest for the crown when competition resumes today at the Greenhills Badminton Center.

Top-seeded players Jake Sabernon and Riki Francisco will take on the eight-ranked tandem of Deejay Potenciano and Nitri Espiritu in the quarterfinals of the Class B men's doubles.

Sabernon and Francisco came out unscathed in the preliminary round to grab the No. 1 spot in the round-of-eight over Gilbert Caran and Chester Vergara, who are set to battle Carlo Bagalso and Herbie Cano in the same division.

Ranking third in Class B, Bryan Bermudez and Jordan Fariñas face Master Yabut and Bert Zamora while the fourth-seeded Paul and Gilbert Martinez meet Jhun Adarna and Orly Amil in the nightcap.

In men's Class C, Joey Guanio and Jojo De Guzman secured pole position and will tackle Elmer Bauyon and Dwight Cadelinia, who wound up eight after the preliminaries of the event sponsored by Shell, Wilson, Citibank, Badminton Phils., Chowking Madison Square and Mizuno.

No. 2 qualifiers Erwin Valencia and Raoul Gonzales face Francis Padilla and Ferdinand Boholst, Ferdinand Bernardo and Manuel Garcia (No. 3) go up against Noel Wong and A.D. Macatangay while fourth-ranked Lance Hizon and Chito Basit meet Joey Palomares and Louie Gomez also in Class C.

Players in the elite Class A category will see action tomorrow; Alex Cuevas and Renel Bernaldo (men's doubles) and Melody Villaceran and Jojo Hipolito (ladies doubles) fight for slots in the finals.

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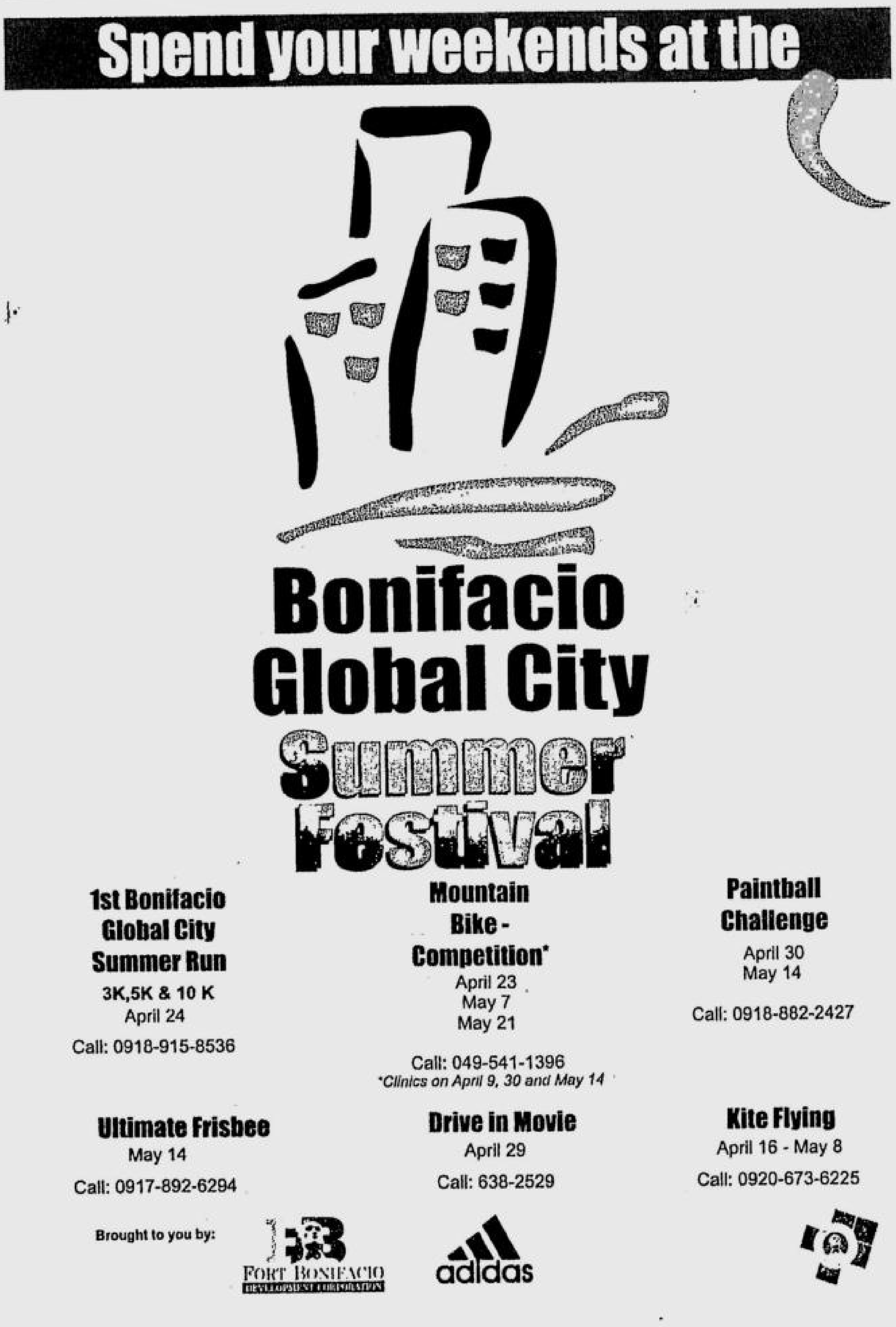
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Atienza to prove himself in MYG

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

"IT'S GOING to be difficult," admitted Manila Sports Council chair Arnold "Ali" Atienza in an interview, "but we are pushing through with this year's Manila Youth Games which begins this Sunday afternoon at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex."

A son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, the 32-year-old Ali was not in for a picnic. His main concern was meeting the negative cash flow brought about by the severe economic conditions. But Ali, whose dogged determination to succeed deeply earns my respect, was able to beat the odds and organize the fourth edition of the MYG by getting the support of several business firms which were more than willing to share and give back to the community what it has given them.

"We owe them a lot," said Ali, a former Asian taekwondo champion and world-ranked jin. "These sponsors are the engines that keep the MYG going," he said, citing in particular Red Bull, San Miguel Corp., Super Ferry, Globe Telecoms, Milo, Intrasports, Concept Movers, Philippine Sports Commission and Pagcor.

The weeklong MYG will feature more than 10,000 promising and talented athletes aged 17 and under from Manila's 897 barangays as well as 130 private and public schools. Manila's outstanding sports achievers like basketball great Gabby Fajardo and track and field champion Benjamin Silva-Netto will also be honored during the MYG which kicks off at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 17. Another highlight is the cheering competition among the city's high school and college teams.

By the way, Ali is also the chief backer of runners Allan Ballester and Roy Vence who will carry the country's colors in the world-famous Boston Marathon on April 18 (April 19 in Manila).

This will mark the first time in 22 years that the Philippines will be entered again in the prestigious race. The last Filipino to see action in Boston was the late Jimmy dela Torre.

"I have high hopes for them," said Ali. "I expect Ballester and Vence to perform creditably in Boston. This is also part of their preparation for the coming SEA Games in Manila."

A native of Sorsogon, the 30-year-old Ballester won the gold medal in the 2003 Vietnam SEA Games while Vence, a 38-year-old champion from Cebu, bagged the gold in the 2001 SEA Games in Malaysia. Ballester and Vence finished 1-2 in the last Manila Marathon to earn the trip to Boston. They left for the United States two weeks ago accompanied by coach Luis Artiaga and delegation head engineer Robert Evangelista of the Manila Mayor's office.

Ali's greatest asset, aside from his youth and energy, is his being down to earth. He is approachable, thoroughly honest and speaks in measured tone. He is not flashy but he is utterly convincing when he talks about sports. He said Masco is presently establishing linkages with the country's other local government sports councils for a partnership aimed at discovering and training new talents.

* * *

GRAHAM LIM'S SIDE. Saying he was still awaiting the official letter from the Bureau of Immigration ordering his deportation, Graham Lim, the beleaguered secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, did not react to published reports that he is a Taiwanese and not a Filipino as he had claimed.

The soft-spoken Lim said he was not making a statement at the moment in the absence of the BI order, but he wants to emphasize that is not a criminal but a simple law-abiding citizen who has made the Philippines his home since birth. "I have not abused anybody in this country."

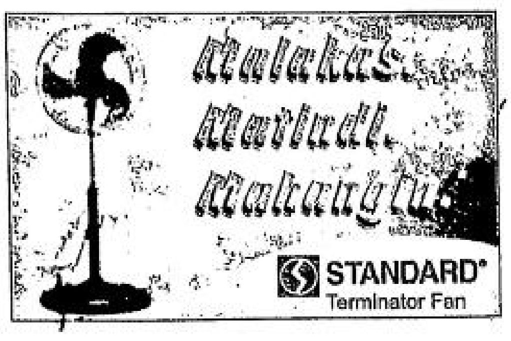
Curious, I sought a reaction from people who know Lim closely, including his longtime friend and benefactor, the controversial Go Teng Kok. They said Lim should not be treated too harshly, adding that he deserves an objective, responsible and more humane treatment.

For his part, Go wondered why it has become fashionable through the years to knock him and his friends. "I have no clout. Some people are mistaken. All I wanted was to help my friends, people who come to me for help. What's wrong with that?"

As for Lim, he said that for all the BAP secgen's faults, Lim has done many good deeds for this country, particularly in the field of sports.

On the BI order, Lim's lawyer, Bonifacio Alentajan, said it is "highly conjectural and inconclusive" and "smacks of arbitrariness and gross denial of the due process of law."

In a press statement, Lim's camp said there was no hearing on the case; that Lim was not given the chance for rebuttal; and that Lim was not given due process before the order was issued.



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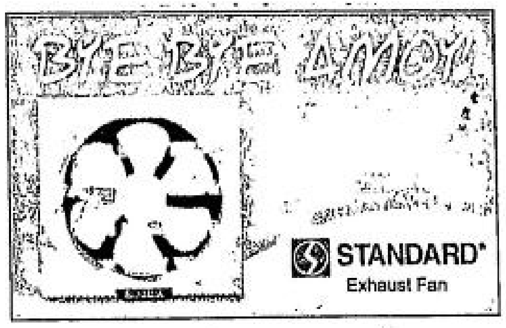

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GOODBYE, KRYSTALA!

ABS-CBN's *superserye*, "Krystala," airs its final episode tonight. Tala (Judy Ann Santos) finally walks down the aisle with Miguel (Ryan Agoncillo). Except it isn't realy Miguel. It's Sugo ng Dilim, Tala's childhood friend, who has disguised himself as Miguel after kidnapping the real one. Oh, do tune in. Juday, asked about her feelings at the series' end, has been quoted as saying she'll miss all the fun "But at least I get to keep the costume."

Proof of life

THE CASCADES will sing all the hits that Pinoys grew up with. From left: John Claude Gummoe (vocals), Tony Grasso (vocals, keyboard), Gabe Lapano (vocals, bass), and Chuck Crews (vocals, guitar, musical director).

THEY'RE here, alive and singing.

The Cascades, '60s pop sensations are in Manila for a series of shows, and the tickets are sold out. At press time, show organizers are contemplating an additional date at the Araneta Coliseum on Sunday.

A dinner show packed the Hard Rock Cafe in Makati last night. Guest artist was RJ Jacinto. Tonight, the guys, mostly in their 60s, are playing to a full house at the Big Dome, with Willie Nepomuceno as guest.

Known for a string of hits—"Rhythm of the Rain," "Shy Girl," "The Last Leaf," "Angel on My Shoulder," "Lucky Guy," "Dreamin'," "My First Day Alone," "There's a Reason," "I Wanna Be Your Lover" among them—The Cascades were reported to have perished in a plane crash at the peak of their popularity.

To this day, lead vocalist John Gummoe says, they have no idea how the rumor started.

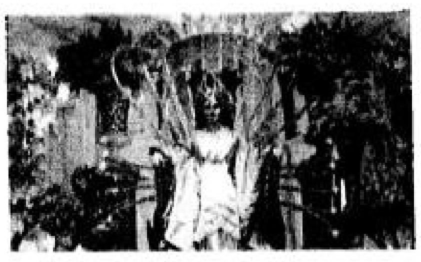
Six million spins

"Rhythm of the Rain" is the ninth most performed songs of the century according to the US-based Broadcast Music Inc. The song has been played over six million times to date, BMI reports.

The band mates have not performed together for about 30 years; they've just recently reunited for the Philippine concerts. But on their arrival press conference on Tuesday, Gummoe and fellow Cascades Gabe Lepano and Tony Grasso harmonized for mediamen in attendance. Aired on the evening news, the sampler further boosted ticket sales, according to a representative of the organizers, Steve O'Neal Productions.

The Cascades fly to Cebu tomorrow for a performance at the Lahug Main Ballroom of the Waterfront Hotel, along with Area One.

WHAT'S INSIDE



▪ First look at GMA 7's 'Encantadia' /A3-2
▪ The exquisite Hilda Koronel /A3-5
▪ Ruben V Nepales' Only IN Hollywood /A3-1

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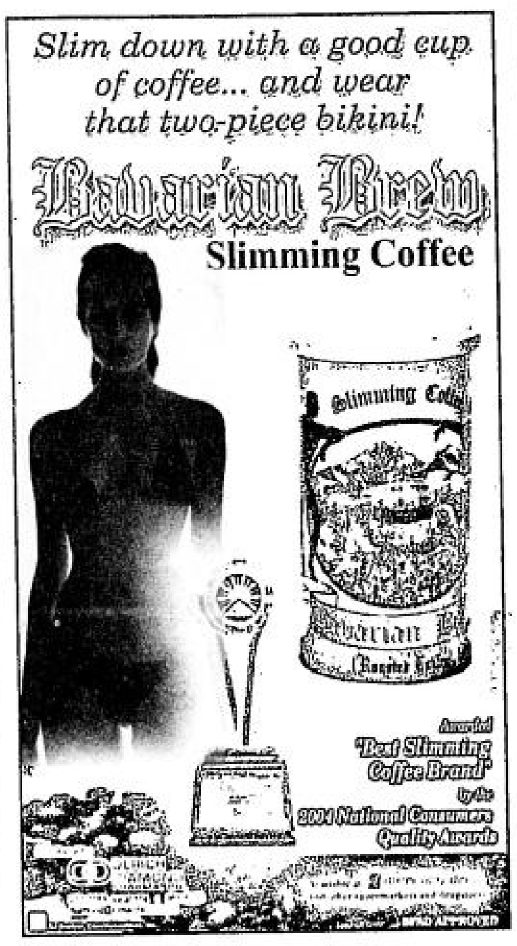

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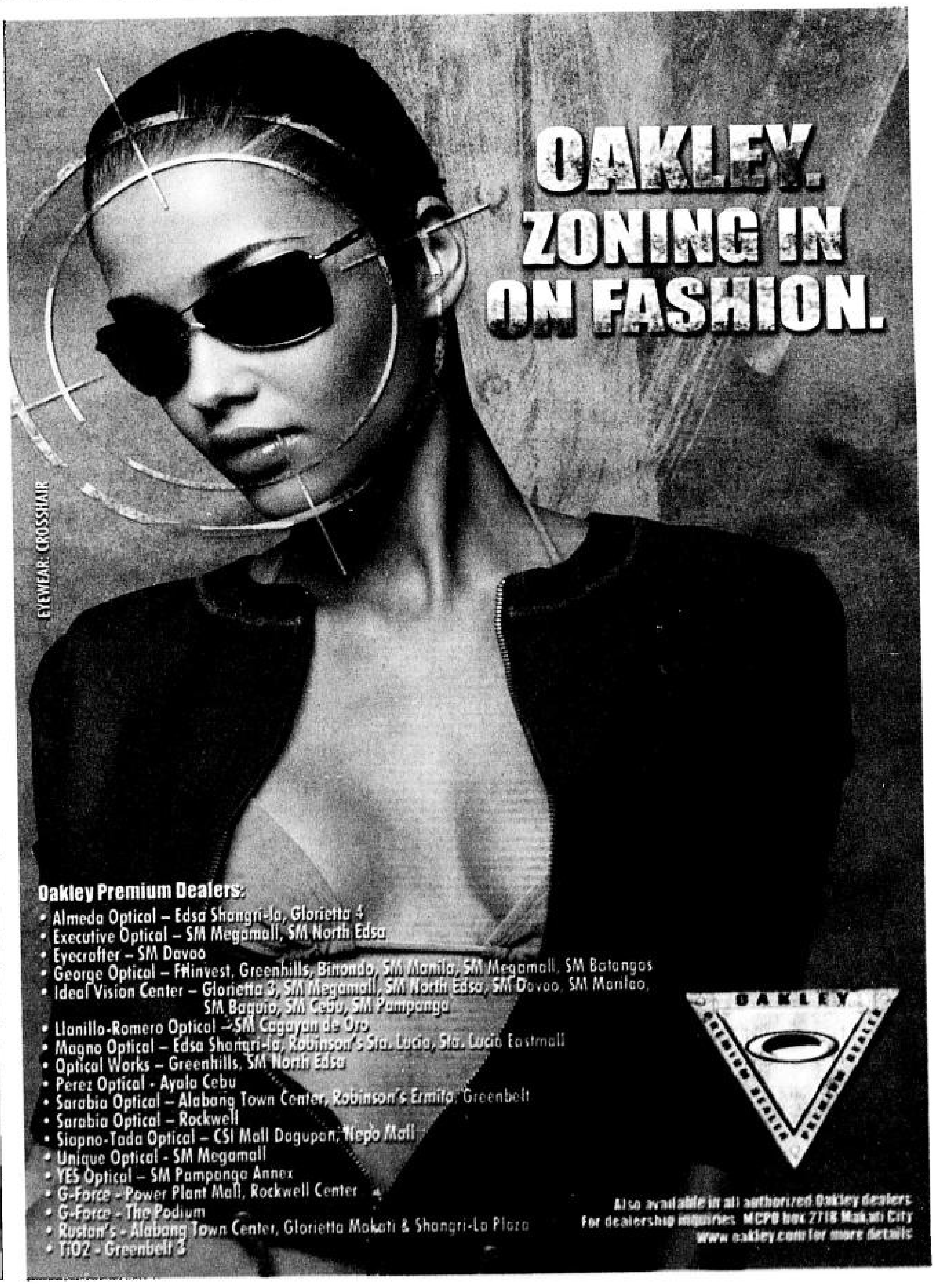

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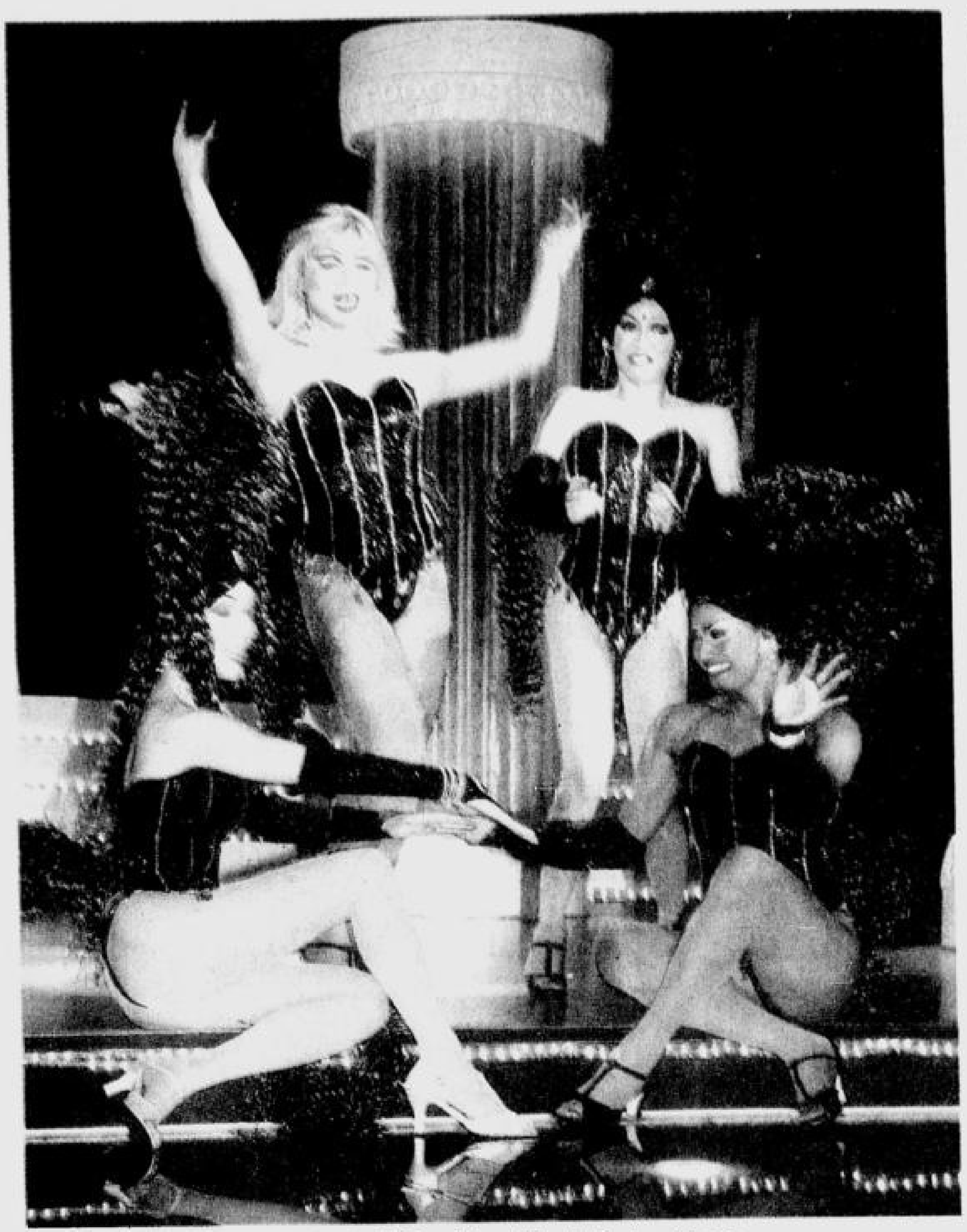


"DIAMONDS are a Girl's (Gay's, Guy's) Best Friend," by the Bedazzled cast

"MOULIN Rouge in Mandaluyong!" the brochures proclaim. "We bring Vegas to Boni!"

Even without these references to entertainment meccas abroad, the Folies-type shows at Club Mwah! on Boni Avenue in Mandaluyong are sure to win well-deserved notices—as in fact they have.

It would not be right to say that, with the freshly lured crowd, the place has started rocking. INQUIRER Entertainment's first visit was on a night way before the crowds discovered this precious little club and it *was* already jumping.

By "little," of course, we mean only in physical dimension. Everything else, especially about the shows, is conceptualized and executed in a big way. Stage, sounds, lights, furnishings are top of the line; performances are rollicking fun, if not altogether brilliant.

Even on that first encounter, with less than half of the tables taken, the performers—girls, guys, gays—were at their manic best. That's entertainment, their flashing eyes declared.

Warning

Credit for the fire in every number goes to Cris Nicolas, creative director, who wears the title like an achievement award. Being one of the performers himself, he likewise pays extra attention to the costumes and props, the result being ... they're fabulous. A cobra suit, Indian silks or Arabian sheers, leather and chains, feathers and frills, psychedelia—Cris has got every single one stitched to perfection.

Last year's show stopper, "Bedazzled," is now "Bedazzled II." More colorful, more rousing, still spectacular. Show days are Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30. Mondays thru Thursdays, "Folies de Mwah" goes onstage. This one was also put together in 2004, and Nicolas has seen little reason to tamper with it except for routine fine-tuning, much less replace it.

Outside of the revues, Club Mwah! is slowly becoming the club that Nicolas and partner Pocholo Malillin envisioned: a throbbing hot spot of music, dance, laughter, and good times. Show biz celebrities have discovered it and are bringing their parties here. High society types are coming in, too—gingerly at first, but a half hour after they walk through the door, they're on the dance floor with one of the girls/guys/gays of Folies looking, well, bedazzled.

You have been warned.

Call 535-7943 or 532-2826.

SHOW TIME

Tonight

The Cascades at the **Araneta Coliseum** with **Willie Nepomuceno**. Call 911-5555

Fat Session at the **Tavern on the Square** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

The Men Of Blue Blood (MOBB) at **Funnside**, Timog Ave., QC; 8 p.m.

Shanice Michael at **Hyatt's Calesa Bar**; 9:30 p.m.

Essence Band at **The Linden Suite's Monsoon Restaurant** in Ortigas.

Blue Ketchup at **Taste Buds, Robinsons Place Manila**, 7 p.m.

Wally Gonzales and Friends, Sugarfree, True Faith, Pido with Take One and **Kearney Street** back-to-back at **19 East Music Hall**. Call 837-6903.

Acoustic Jive at **Merk's**.

Tomorrow

Faith Cuneta at **Target Mall**, Biñan.

Jeremiah at **Starmall Edsa**, 4 p.m.

The Cascades at the **Waterfront Hotel** Cebu, with **Area One** as guest performers.

Rivermaya and **Kitchie Nadal** at the **Araneta Coliseum** with newcomers **Spongecola** and **Juana** as guests. Call 911-5555.

Passage Band at **Metropolis Star** Alabang, 8 p.m.

Wiseguys at the **Tavern on the Square** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

The Moonstrucks at **Funnside**, Timog Ave., QC

Aretha and the Souled Out Band at **Merk's**.

April 17

Faith Cuneta at **Starmall Edsa**, 4 p.m.

"**StarStruck Superstar**" concert series featuring **Yasmien Kurdi** at **Enchanted Kingdom**, 7 p.m.

Rachelle Ann Go at **Robinsons Pioneer**.

Highway 69 at **Hard Rock Cafe**.

Cruzin' at **Merk's**.

April 18

Keystone Band at **Suburbia** in Malate.

Judith Banal with Evolution at **19 East Music Hall**. Call 837-6903.

Freestyle at **Tavern on the Square** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

Main Avenue at **Hard Rock Cafe**.

Bernie Uy at **Merk's**.

April 19

Shanice Michael at the **Syncopado Piano Bar and Resto** in Malate.

Ang4Gettables at the **Tavern on the Square** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

Dio Marco, The Moonstrucks, Michelle de Guzman, Joy Viado and other surprise guest artists will have a fund-raising show for the eye operation of Vangie Lumanog at **Funnside**.

Freeverse at **Suburbia** in Malate, Tuesdays.

M.Y.M.P. at **19 East Music Hall**. Call 837-6903.

April 20

Side A at the **Tavern on the Square** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

K24/7 at **Suburbia** in Malate.

Toy Symphony at **19 East Music Hall**. Call 837-6903.

Bernie Uy at **Merk's**.

FAITH Cuneta

April 21

Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez "Love You, Hate You, Love You," Merk's.

Nyoy Volante w/ Mannos at Suburbia in Malate.

8 Track at the **Tavern on** Square in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

John Y Cash and The Jukebox Funnside, Timog Ave., QC.

April 22

MTV Supahstar winners **Cri Bañez, Kok Crisostomo, Kri Daya, Ken Dingle, Buboy Kim Rein Layug** and **Sitti Navarro** at SM Megamall Megastrip.

Faith Cuneta at **SM Batangas**.

Rockin' Revival at **Funnside**, T og Ave., QC.

Wally Gonzales and Friends, S arfree, True Faith, Pido with Ta One and **Kearney Street** in back back performances at **19 East Mu Hall**. Call 837-6903.

Panacea at **Taste Buds Robinsc Place Manila**, 7 p.m.

Fat Session at **Tavern on** Square.

Mocha with Spinart at **Hard Ro Cafe**.

Acoustic Jive at **Merk's**

April 23

JA Rule at **Araneta Coliseum** p.m. Call 911-5555

Boyz II Men at the **PhilSports A ña (Ultra)**, with **Kyla** as guest. Ticketworld, 891-9999

Freestyle and **U-Turn** at **Starm Edsa**, 5 p.m.

Faith Cuneta at **Pacific Mall Lu na**

April 24

"**StarStruck Superstar**" at chanted Kingdom, 7 p.m.

Joross Gamboa at **Metropolis S Alabang**, 5 p.m.

Rachelle Ann Go at **Robinsc Metro East**.

Highway 69 at **Hard Rock Cafe**.

Wiseguys at the **Tavern on** Square in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

April 25

Freestyle at **Tavern on the Squ** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

Keystone Band at **Suburbia** Malate.

Judith Banal with Evolution at East Music Hall. Call 837-6903.

April 26

Shanice Michael at the **Syncopa Piano Bar and Resto** in Malate.

Dio Marco, The Moonstruc Michelle de Guzman, Joy Viado other surprise guest artists in a ben show at **Funnside**.

Side A at **19 East Music Hall**. 837-6903.

April 27

Side A at the **Tavern on the Squ** in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

K24/7 at **Suburbia** in Malate.

Freestyle at **19 East Music H** Call 837-6903.

Bernie Uy at **Merk's**.

April 28

8 Track at the **Tavern on** Square in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

Robert Seña and Isay Álvarez "Love You, Hate You, Love You," Merk's.

Nyoy Volante w/ Mannos at Su urbia in Malate.

John Y Cash and The Jukebo Funnside, Timog Ave., QC.

April 29

Lito Camo takes center stage "Lagi na Lang Kayo... Ako Naman!" the **Music Museum**, 8:30 p.m. 891-9999.

Rockin' Revival at **Funnside**, T og Ave., QC

Lucid Band at **Taste Buds Rob sons Place Manila**, 7 p.m.

Acoustic Jive at **Merk's**.

Rachelle Ann Go in concert at A Theater with **Mark Bautista, Chr tian Bautista, Jay-R** and **Ogie casid** as special guests.

Fat Session at the **Tavern on** Square in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

April 30

Monique Wilson celebrates years in theater with an annivers concert at the **Music Museum**. 896-6695.

Faith Cuneta at **SM Sucat**

Wiseguys at the **Tavern on** Square in Greenbelt 2 Makati.

May 1

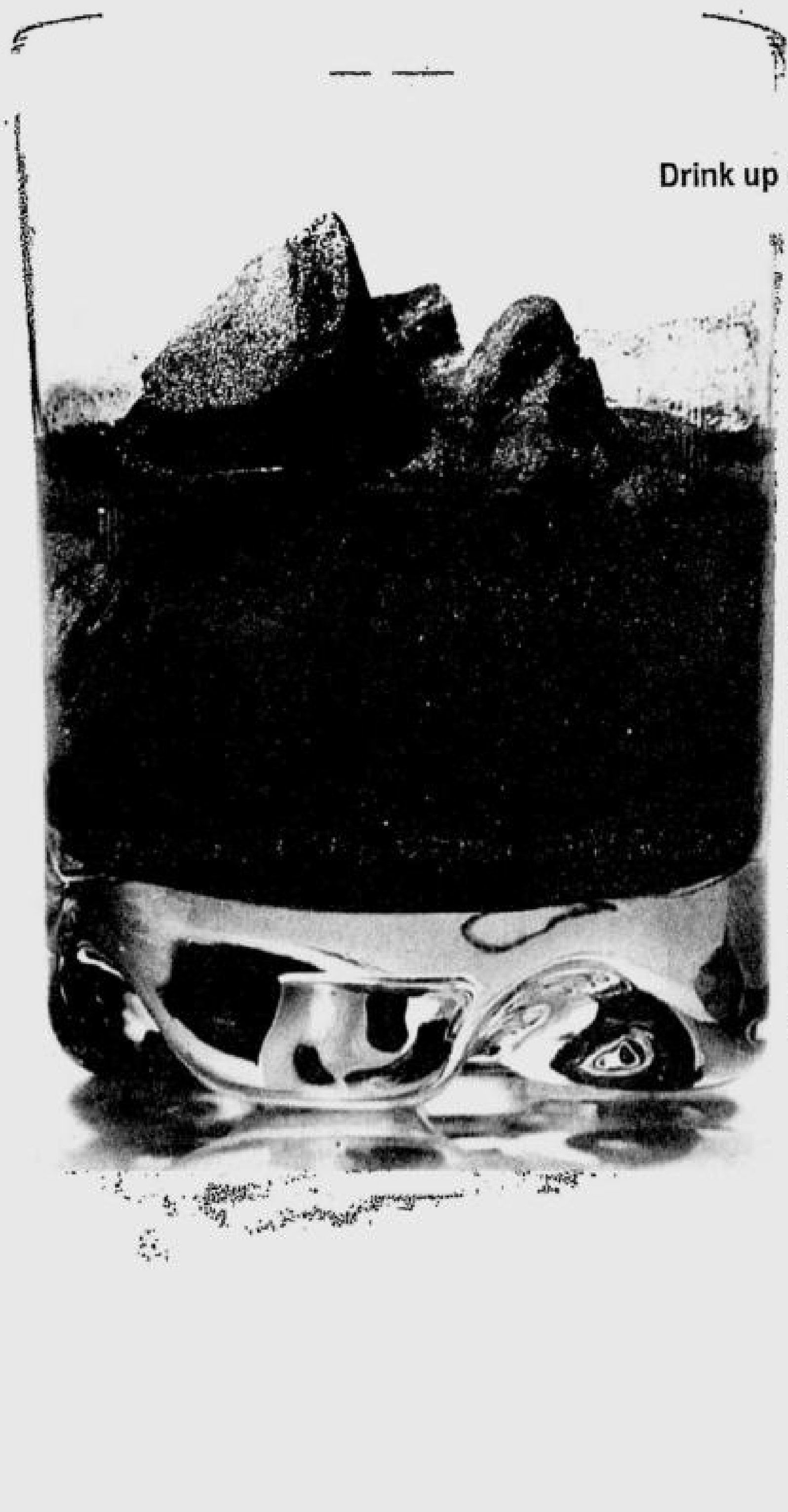
"**StarStruck Superstar**" concer ries at **Enchanted Kingdom**, 7 p.m

Faith Cuneta at **Metropoint Pa**

May 6

Christian Bautista in "The W You Look at Christian Bautista," **Casino Filipino** in Parañaque. anne de la Fuente is special gu Call 911-5555.

Faith Cuneta at **SM Dasmariñas**



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Ai Ai de las Alas is back on the concert stage via a comedy concert series in the US. The series billed "The Comedy Queen on Tour" starts April 30 at the Arie Crown Theater in Chicago. This will be followed with a show at Nob Hill Masonic Center in San Francisco on May 1; Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, May 8; Dole Cannery, Oahu, Honolulu, May 13; and HP Baldwin Auditorium, Maui, Hawaii, May 14. Ai Ai is joined by special guests Troy Montero and 111 of a kind. For details, call Backroom, 435-3808 or 928-3121.

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1 **WEDDING DATE**
MTRCB: PG-13
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

2 **FINDING NEVERLAND**
MTRCB: GP
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

3 **SPONGEBOB**
MTRCB: GP
12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00

4 **SAHARA**
MTRCB. PG-13
10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE SAMARA (Ring 2)
MTRCB. PG-13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50 LMF

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2	SAHARA	11:55, 2:45, 5:35 8:25, 11:05	PG-13
3	WEDDING DATE	11:10, 1:30, 3:50 6:10, 8:30, 10:50	PG 13
4	FINDING NEVERLAND	12:05, 2:15, 4:25 6:35, 8:45, 10:55	GP

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WEDDING DATE PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	SAMARA: RING 2 R13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	SAHARA PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20

star group of cinemas movie guide

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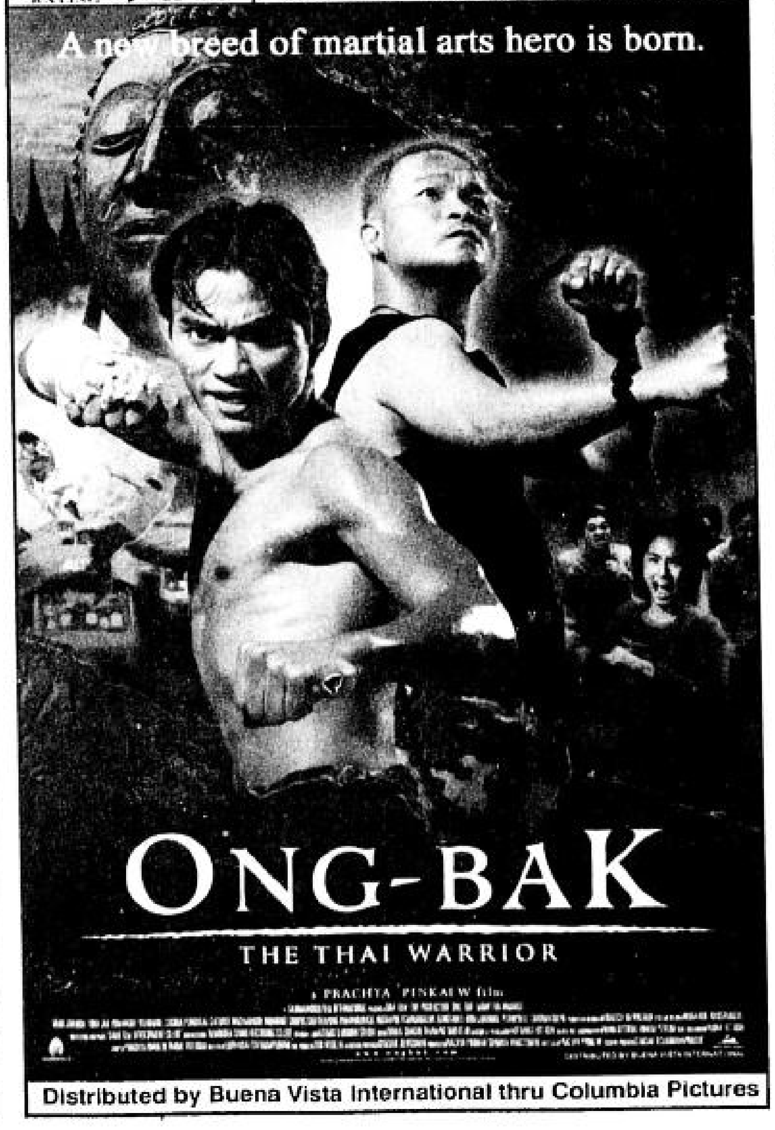

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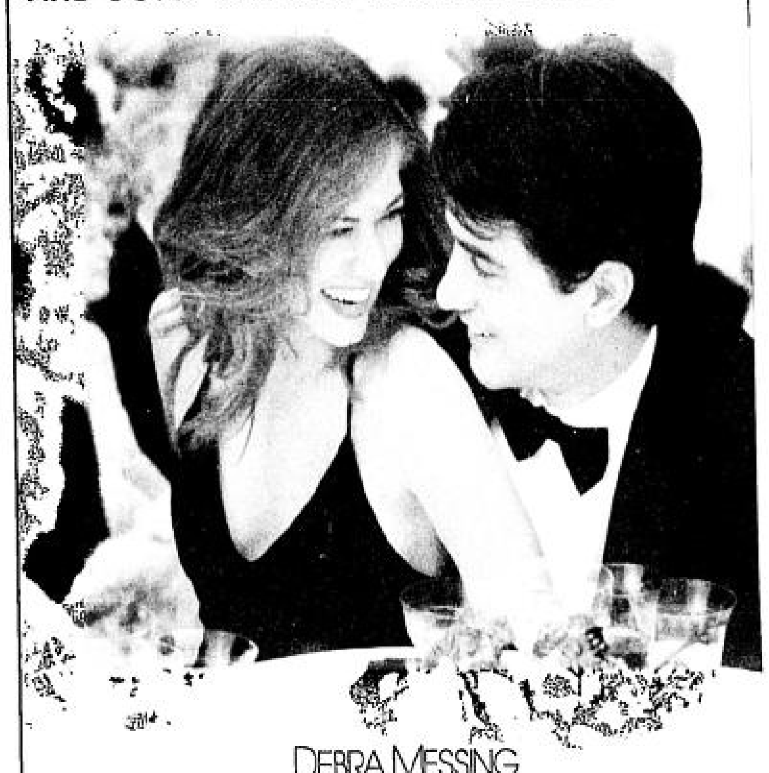

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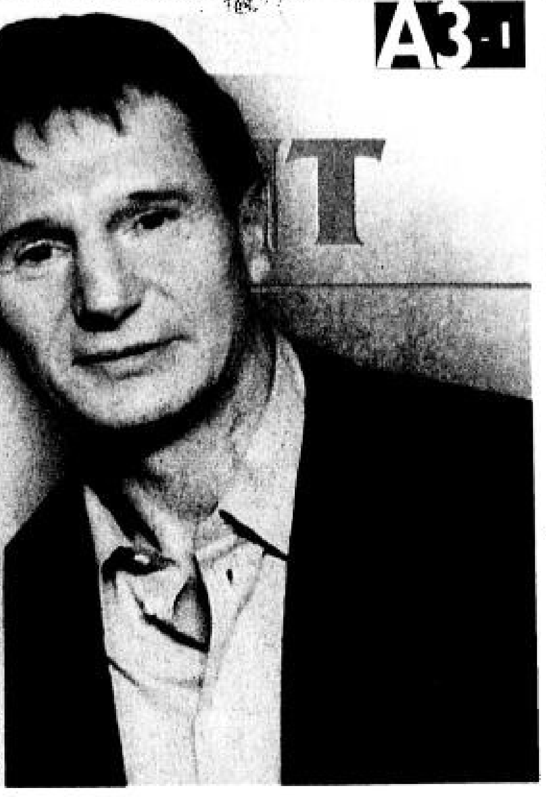
Liam Neeson: America is incredibly puritanical



ON HIS kissing scene with Peter Sarsgaard: "I just kept thinking he was J Lo… [but] I didn't tell him that."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—Over the weekend, we attended a press con where **Liam Neeson** was asked why he thought "Kinsey," in which he plays the noted sex researcher **Alfred Kinsey**, generated controversy and yet met lukewarm box-office reception.

"Sex is controversial," said the actor, who won a Los Angeles Film Critics Best Actor award and a Golden Globe Award Best Actor (Drama) nomination for his portrayal of the sex author whose 1948 publication, "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male" was groundbreaking. "America has a problem with sex," he declared. "America is incredibly puritanical."

The "Kinsey" reference reminded us of an earlier interview with the tall Irishman. Asked about a scene in "Kinsey" in which his title character was seduced by **Peter Sarsgaard**—who plays a student researcher—Liam tried to downplay all the fuss about it. "There's an endless array of kisses. With Peter, I just kept thinking he was J Lo," Liam, who is married to actress **Nathasha Richardson**, said laughing. "I didn't tell him that. It wasn't a big thing."

Liam clarified that while smooching Peter onscreen wasn't a big deal, the scene itself was important to the movie's story. "The scene impacts the direction that Kinsey takes afterwards—how it affects or does not affect his marriage."

Razor burn

The sequence involved Peter disrobing before Liam's character and then they kiss. Liam revealed, "I admire Peter very much for the way he played the scene. I would not show my genitals to any movie camera. So I admire him for that aspect. **Bill (Condon)** directed me very carefully. I'm heterosexual. I am not gay, so I relied on Bill to choreograph the kiss. Peter and I did quite a number of takes so I now know what razor burn is like (laughter). It's not very nice."

Peter told us about filming that scene from his perspective. "I was nervous," admitted the actor, who has been linked to actress **Maggie Gyllenhaal**. "I was more nervous about kissing Liam than for appearing nude. It's because Liam is someone I've known for a while. My concern was not what my reaction is going to be. It's making sure that Liam was okay with it. Kissing is more intimate than filming lovemaking. In kissing, you're really doing it. If the actor or actress reassures me that they feel okay about it, then I start to feel okay, too. Liam and I were a little nervous. But after a few takes, I got the feeling that he was going to be okay, so I felt fine."

As for taking it all off for the camera (full frontal male nudity is what American cinema is still very prudish about), Peter explained, "It was something that we actually came up with last minute on the day that we were filming. I would say that the first thing that made me do it was that it fit the scene. I wanted the seduction to start in a passive-aggressive way. In a movie, when I see an actor waking up to answer the telephone and walking across the room to answer it, and he is nude, I always think, that's a naked actor in the movie. If it's in a scene where it means something, then I think it's appropriate."

None for Leo

While we're on the subject of sex: For viewers who wondered why there was a lack of it in "The Aviator," considering that it's the biopic on 20th Century's supposedly greatest lover, here, finally, is an explanation. And it's from **Leonardo DiCaprio** himself, who played **Howard Hughes**, the Hollywood Casanova also known for being an aviation pioneer: "It was a specific attempt by Mr. [Martin] **Scorsese** [the director] to try to do a film that's PG-13 and reach a wider audience. I remember asking (screenwriter) **John Logan** and Scorsese, should we have more women? In the past 100 years, there was no greater swashbuckler as far as the ladies were concerned."

With a twinkle in his eye, DiCaprio continued: "I was like, shouldn't we, you know, bring hundreds of women in, to really show the kind of prowess he had with the ladies? I remember John Logan saying, 'Look, if there's a tiger in the room and you say he's a tiger, the audience is going to know he's a tiger. There's no reason to show you with hundreds of ladies or show him sexually active.' And I think throughout the film, you get the impression that this man certainly does his job with the ladies (laughs)."

But perhaps Leonardo would have had an equal chance with **Jamie Foxx** for that gleaming Oscar Best Actor trophy had they allowed him to show that he's a tiger… with hundreds of ladies?

SARSGAARD

DICAPRIO

Fall of the Phoenix

DID YOU KNOW...

LOS ANGELES — Actor **Joaquin Phoenix** has checked into an undisclosed rehabilitation facility for treatment of alcoholism.

"He was uncomfortable with the way that he was living his life," said a statement from publicist Susan Patricola.

His brother, actor River Phoenix, died of a drug overdose in 1993. *Reuters*

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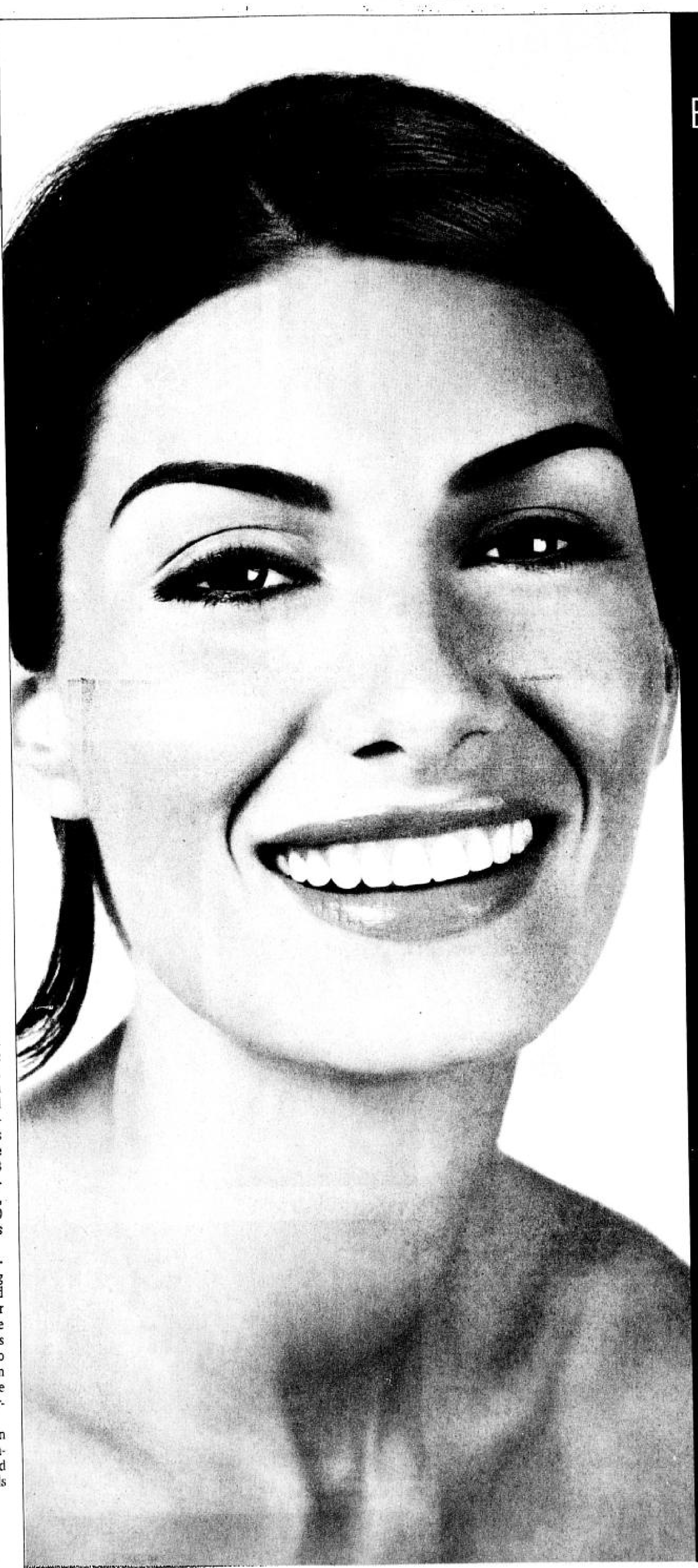

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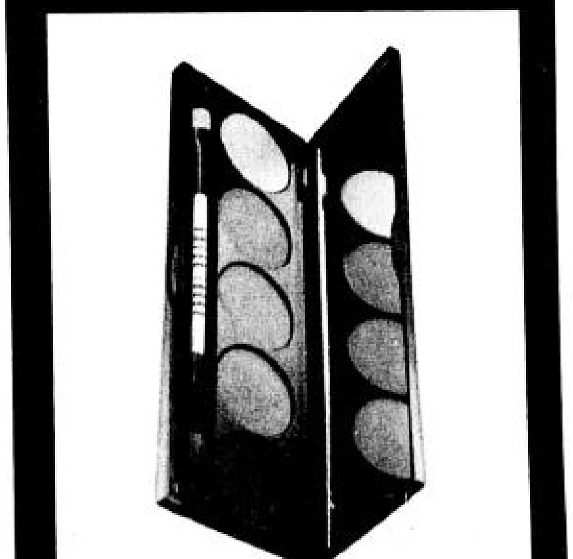

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DAWN Zulueta as Inang Reyna

SUNSHINE Cruz as Pirena

Hot on the heels of 'Darna' comes GMA 7's new *fantaserye*, actually shelved last year but resurrected—like magic

Welcome to 'Encantadia'

By Marinel R. Cruz
and Kathryn Fatima Reyes
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

NANCY Castiglione as Muyak

KARYLLE as Alena

A WHOPPING P3 million was what it cost GMA 7 to turn a 1,900-sq.m. warehouse in the heart of Metro Manila into a surreal paradise we will henceforth know as "Encantadia."

It is also the network's latest *fantaserye*, hot on the heels of "Darna."

"Actually, this is only one of four sets. This is just the castle," explained director Mark Reyes as he ushered INQUIRER Entertainment into the air-conditioned warehouse in Pasig. "It's so big, though. What you're seeing is just the royal chamber, the garden and the main hall. We just don't want it to look too messy... and we also wanted to keep it a secret."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Reyes pointed out that "Encantadia" is divided into four kingdoms—Adamya, Lireo, Hathoria, Saphiro—each bearing the gems that represent the four elements, wind, water, fire and earth.

Later, he said the Adamya set is in Calatagan, Batangas, while the Hathoria set is in Kalinawan Cave in Tanay, Rizal. The forest of Lireo is around Daranak and Batlag Falls, also in Rizal.

Reyes said "Encantadia" was originally a movie for GMA Films. Viewers had a sneak peek into mythical worlds in the hit series "Mulawin," also on GMA 7.

"The movie was supposed to be an entry to last year's Metro Manila Film Festival. In fact, we started working on it as early as May 2004," Reyes revealed. "But we were not able to assemble the cast that we wanted, and the network became busy with so many other things. Management decided to put it aside... until it reincarnated into a soap series."

To come up with the final look, Reyes said, he consulted with designers Rodell Cruz, Chito Zamora and Benny Batuctoy.

Fantasy-soap

In the world called Encantadia, balance is destroyed when Hathors become greedy and attempt to steal all the gems that represent the four kingdoms. Encantadas in Lireo are charged with guarding the gems, but they are rendered helpless in the face of another attempt, this time a successful one. Unless the four stones are brought back together, peace will continue to elude Encantadia.

The story, which revolves around the characters of Karylle and Dingdong Dantes, Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras is "multi-layered," said the director.

"This is a merging of tele-fantasy and the traditional soap," Reyes explained. "It starts with Jennylyn's character who realizes, 'Oh, I'm just not a mortal. I have a secret.' And then Lireo comes into the picture. Here, we will introduce characters like Menandres, the god-figure in Encantadia, and the creature called Imaw, one of the most complicated animatronic creatures ever done for Philippine television. He is our Yoda. And then we have Awu, an eight-foot creature that walks on its own."

Reyes said the job of his team is to make the audience believe that Encantadia is real, even the fairies and encantados.

INQUIRER Entertainment recently visited "Encantadia" and asked the cast members about their roles.

Jennylyn Mercado

"I play the role of Milagros. I'm an encantada who grows up in the world of mortals. Cinderella-like *ang kwento ko*. The character of

DINGDONG Dantes as Ybarro (left), Diana Zubiri as Danaya

PINKY Amador as Carmen

IZA Calzado as Amihan

PRODUCTION designer Rodell Cruz with his masterpiece

YASMIEN Kurdi as Mira

Allan Paule adopts me. I grow up with a scheming stepmother (Ira Adlawan) and stepsister (Gail Valencia).

"Anthony (Mark Herras) is my childhood sweetheart. We get separated when we are young, but meet again when I decide to work as a maid in their household. We make a vow to love each other forever.

"I discover my ability to control the wind while growing up. There's this one time when I get so angry at a playmate that she is blown away."

JENNYLYN Mercado as Milagros

ERA Madrigal (left) as Gigi, Gail Valencia as Dina

BUSY, busy, busy makeup room

Mark Herras

"I play the role of Anthony here. I am Jennylyn's (character) childhood best friend. Then I go to the States to study. When I come back, I'm all grown up and I don't remember her, even when she becomes one of our housemaids. Milagros, on the other hand, remembers me. I am a mortal here. That's why I wear ordinary clothes."

Karylle

"I am Alena. I am one of four daughters of Inang Reyna (Dawn Zulueta). I have the power to control water and the ability to hypnotize. I am the only daughter who has no desire to become queen of Lireo.

"I'm a warrior, just like my other sisters. I'm skilled in fighting, using a long sphere: I'm independent and I don't need a man to defend me. I'm not interested in finding my knight in shining armor."

Dingdong Dantes

"My character's name is Ybarro. I'm a warrior. Warriors are like the royal subjects here. We live outside the palace.

"I don't have special powers here but I am Encantadia's bravest and strongest warrior. Karylle is my love interest here but there is also a love triangle between Karylle, Iza and myself.

"I have four layers of costume here. Unlike the royals, I only have one costume. I play another character named Ibrahim... but I am not allowed to talk about him."

Iza Calzado

"I portray the character Amihan. I have the power to command the wind, and the ability to float in the air. I am also skillful with the sword. My father (Richard Gomez) trains me well.

"I'm second to Pirena, who is the eldest among the four daughters. The scheming Pirena plays an important role in my life. She will attempt to claim what is rightfully mine. Amihan has a good heart. She is very patient. She believes that Pirena will eventually change her ways."

Diana Zubiri

"I play Danaya. I am the youngest of the four children of Inang Reyna (Dawn Zulueta). I am the youngest but I'm the most fearless. But I'm not really a *kontrabida*.

"I'm now wearing my warrior costume. I also have a royal gown. Putting on costumes is kind of hard. Part of the preparations was for us to learn martial arts. Since my character bears the power of the earth, the weapon given to me is arnis. The others have swords."

Sunshine Dizon

"I play the role of Pirena and I hold the crystal of fire. Pirena is not really bad. She is just brainwashed by Gurna, her guardian. You'll understand, as the story goes along, the reason that Pirena becomes evil.

"This (points to her warrior costume) is just one of my three costumes. I also have a gown and a cloak. Instead of the usual fitting, I had to undergo body casting for this one. *Pati ulo ko binuhusan*. That freaked me out. It takes time to wear just this one costume. This looks like it's only one piece but there are actually 10 separate pieces, the footwear alone consists of four pieces.

"Our costumes were created by Benny Batuctoy and are made of fiberglass."

Nancy Castiglione

"I play Muyak. I was first seen in the soap series 'Mulawin,' but here I look different. I am a little fairy. I think my character has been patterned after Tinkerbell.

"While I'm in Encantadia, I'm always around Inang Reyna and Alena (Karylle's character). I'm Alena's guardian.

"One day, I see Pirena stealing Amihan's daughter; she brings the baby to the mortal world. So since my character is also like a curious george, I also go into the vortex. When Amihan finds out that Pirena has gone to the mortal world, she closes the vortex. In the mortal world, I'm invisible to everyone except the baby, who is Milagros. So I'm stuck with Jennylyn's character who grows up in the mortal world. I'm the only one who really knows for now about the secret. *Ako yung susi*."

MARK Herras as Anthony

DIRECTOR Mark Reyes

Dawn Zulueta

"Inang Reyna is the heiress to the throne of Encantadia. She has four daughters, who are actually the lead characters in the series. "Inang Reyna's role is really to mediate in the squabble between the four daughters. Some of them want to be queen.

"The encantadas have basic powers but they each have specialties. They inherited these from Inang Reyna and their fathers.

"As Inang Reyna, I have several powers, one of which is the ability to change my figure and form."

Girlie Sevilla

"I'm Gurna, an ordinary diwata. I am Inang Reyna's lady-in-waiting. But I'm faithful to Pirena only because she's my ward. My character is actually the one responsible for bringing out the bad side of Pirena. I am also a spy of the evil forces of Hathoria here in Encantadia."

Era Madrigal

"I am Gigi. I'm Milagros' best friend. She runs to me whenever she's depressed. We're neighbors. We're both poor and live by the railway."

Gail Valencia

"I play the role of Dina, Milagros' wicked younger sister. I'm always mean to her because I blame her for the death of our father. I call her names and ask her to do all the household chores at home."

Pinky Amador

"I am Anthony's mother, Carmen. I am very strict because I raised him by myself. I'm a single parent.

Anthony and Milagros are childhood sweethearts here. When Mark comes back from the US, as fate would have it, they get back together. I make Milagros' life miserable, too. I don't want my son to end up with her because she's poor."

Polo Ravales

"I'm the warrior Hitaro. I work hand in hand with Ybarro. We protect the kingdom of Lireo from the Hathors who all want to conquer us.

"There's a love triangle between Ybarro, Alena and my character. I'm secretly in love with Alena."

Yasmien Kurdi

"Mira is the name of my character here. I am Ate Sunshine's daughter whom she swaps with Jennylyn, the real daughter of Ate Iza. Ate Sunshine does that so that I will inherit the throne. I don't know if Mira is supposed to be bad. I think she is only brainwashed to be bad."

Jay Aquitania

"I'm Banjo. I'm one of Jennylyn's best friends. I'm involved in a love triangle with Jennylyn and Mark. I don't have a costume since I play the role of a mortal. I was not given an encantado role because GMA 7 does not want my my character here to be compared with my character in 'Mulawin.'"

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Friday, April 15, 2005

ABANGAN!
May Tama kaya Mas Mali!
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25 PM)	Gatekeepers (5:10.PM)	Gundam Seed (5:35.PM)	The Road To Stardom	TV Patrol		Krystala	Hiram	Spirits	Kamao	TBA	Search For A Star In A Million			Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	TNA Impact		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Hungry Heart	Knockout	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	All About Eve (8:45.PM)	Full House (9:15PM)		Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Scare Tactics	The Ring	Crime & Punishment		Sports Illustrated		Biggest Loser		Newswatch Now			
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		The Hope 1-Million All Filipino					IBC News Tonite	Pulis Na Palaban	GMA The Working President
JackTV		WWE Velocity		Thunder Box		Rastol	Ozzy & Drix	Mucha Lucha!	The Sib Show	Stargate SG1		WWE Smackdown				WWE Velocity		Wow	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Combo Nick				Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	1, 2, 3	Nick Mix						Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Star MYX	Club MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		JKX	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Ikaw Ang Mahal Ko				Dekada 70				Pinakamagandang Hayop Sa Balat Ng Lupa				Lalaban Ako				Fida	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights		Playing It Straight		News Central	Oprah		Yes Dear
AXN		The Contender		The World's Most Extreme Races		30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	7 Days (Season III)		Pensacola (Season III)		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	E Buzz	Cold Squad		I Still Know What You Did Last Summer			
Star World	Cops	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Really Caught In The Act		Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Welcome To Mars		Asteroid! The Doomsday Rock		Mission: Mars		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		The Dark Side Of Chimps/Welcome To Mars/Dawn Of The Maya		Zambezi Troop/ Asteroid! The Doomsday Rock/Quest For Phoenicians	
Solar Sports				NBA Fan Favorite				WTA Dubai Duty Free Women's Open '05				In This Corner		NBA Game Dallas @ Portland					GWS Ep.15-2005
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating With Style	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		New York Nick	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate			
HBO	Conviction (2:45 PM)				I Spy (4:25.PM)			Gridlock'd			Bugs (7:35.PM)			Lara Croft: Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life				Maid In Manhattan (10:55PM)	
Star Movies	Total Recall (2:45PM)				Les Miserables (4:40 PM)					EDTV (6:55.PM)				A Guy Thing			Long Time Dead		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Teen Titans	Star Wars: Clone Wars (6:45 PM)	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	The Powerpuff Girls	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Ed, Edd N Eddy (9:15 PM)	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Gundam Seed
ESPN	Premier Snooker League '05				Motorsport Asia	2004 WPBA Cuetec Cues Florida Classic		Winter X Games IX		Goals!	English premier league preview	Sportscenter Asia	Premier Snooker League '05				2004 WPBA Cuetec Cues Florida Classic		Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/ Untalkative Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax					Look Who's Talking Too		Love The Hard Way (6:45 PM)				Tempted			Another 48 Hrs.			Clear And Present Danger		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Sue Thomas: FB Eye		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	The District		Sue Thomas: FB Eye		Bug			Wife Swap (10:35PM)		The District (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Monster Garage		American Chopper		Wild Science		Sen Toku		Crime Night	
Sports Plus								Italia Serie A				World Poker Tour Ep 13 Road to d' C'ships				Inside the PGA	This Is The PGA Tour		MCI Heritage Day1
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		GSIS Member's Hour		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		9th Tinig Awards				Ugnayang Pambansa	

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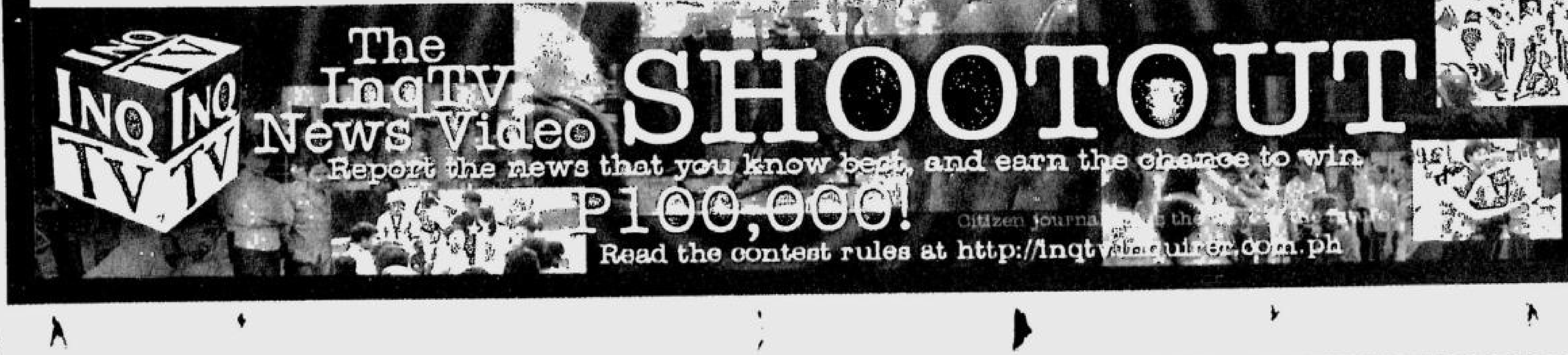
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ROD Stewart

BRYAN Adams

Middle age sells

LONDON—Middle-aged musicians who have neither burned out nor faded away—yet may be some years past their creative peaks—are pulling in the real money in today's topsy-turvy music industry.

In the young person's game that is popular music, the top of Rolling Stone magazine's 2004 money list is dominated by artists of a certain age like Metallica and Rod Stewart.

They may not produce as many chart-topping songs as they once did, but with album sales flagging due to Internet piracy and competition from other entertainment outlets, they pull in revenue streams from merchandise, concerts and books.

To find a group on Rolling Stone's list that has been around for less than 10 years, you have to go down to Linkin Park at No. 9.

Heritage acts

The rock band trails artists such as Prince and Madonna, who both had blockbuster tours, and Jimmy Buffett, who released his first fully-fledged country album in 2004 but more importantly has a lucrative string of "Margaritaville" chain restaurants.

It's not only true at the top.

Artists dubbed "heritage acts" like Simple Minds, Iron Maiden and Bryan Adams still enjoy avid fan bases and are making good money and playing big concert dates.

"When you write really big songs, they connect with people in such a way that it reminds them of the moment they first heard those songs," said Max Hole, executive vice president for marketing and A&R (artists and repertoire) at Universal Records.

"They want to keep being reminded, and one way is to go see them live."

Major player

Many niche yet lucrative heritage acts are housed at Sanctuary Group, known half-jokingly in the industry a "haven for aging rockers," which is the world's biggest independent music label.

It is also a major player in artist management, merchandising and touring. The company purchased Elton John's management company for $30 million last week.

Sanctuary grew out of representing heavy metal group Iron Maiden, who are still touring and putting out albums despite falling off the mainstream radar.

"We've recognized that selling records is only one part of the mix, and that's especially true for heritage artists," said John Williams, senior vice president of A&R at Sanctuary.

"They've got touring down, their publishing income from songwriting is substantial and merchandise is brilliant—Led Zeppelin t-shirt sales, for example, are as strong as they ever were.

"It's the artists that are songwriters, artists that love to tour, and artists who love to reinvent themselves—these are the types of artists who can go out and constantly tour and not just play the greatest hits," he added. *Reuters*

Katya Santos Gwen Garci and Jeffrey Quizon
BOSO
DIRECTED BY JON RED

exclusive SCREENING
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA and ERMITA

Boso is the first digital film by Digital Viva and directed by award-winning director Jon Red

synopsis:
"Boso", shot on a digital video, is a sexy dark comedy about Jake, (Quizon) caretaker of a boarding house by day and a peeping-Tom by night. In a place filled with twisted characters and absurd lives, he oversees each tenant's secrets, daily routines and private world. Jake continues "playing God" until he meets and falls for Cecilia, (Santos) a woman who makes him realize the essence of beauty - unseen by the eyes. Later, a tragic accident leads to an unexpected twist and dramatic confrontation.

APRIL 13-19
MTRCB Rating: R-18

see the stars live...
Jaycee Parker • Gwen Garci and Katya Santos
Robinsons Movieworld - Cinema Lobby
ERMITA (Apr. 16)

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2 (DOLBY) FINDING NEVERLAND GP
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4 (DOLBY) SAHARA PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) SAMARA (RING 2) PG13

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3 SAMARA (RING - 2)
4 WEDDING DATE

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2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

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2 ONG BAK
3 SAMARA (RING -2)

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4 GOLD (DTS) HIDE AND SEEK
5 GOLD (DOLBY) SAHARA
6 GOLD (SDDS) PACIFIER
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SAMARA (RING -2)
8 PELUKANG ITIM
9 CLOSER
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ALI MALL CINEMAS
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2 ONG BAK
3 SAHARA
4 PELUKANG ITIM
5 SAMARA RING 2

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2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 (DOLBY) PACIFIER
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3 (DOLBY) DARKNESS
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4 CURSED

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2 FINAL CUT
3 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE

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2 SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
3 (DOLBY) SORUM
4 (DTS) HIDE AND SEEK

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1 MISS CONGENIALITY
2 BE COOL
3 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE

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1 (SDDS) GRO
2 KAYA MO PERO MASAKIT
3 PILUKANG ITIM
4 (DTS) BENTH LOCHNESS

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY) SAHARA
2 CLOSER
3 (DTS) MISS CONGENIALITY
4 HUWAD NA HAYOP
5 CURSED

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
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3 (DTS) MISS CONGENIALITY
4 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE

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2 CURSED
3 SEX & ZEN
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Berma Cinema
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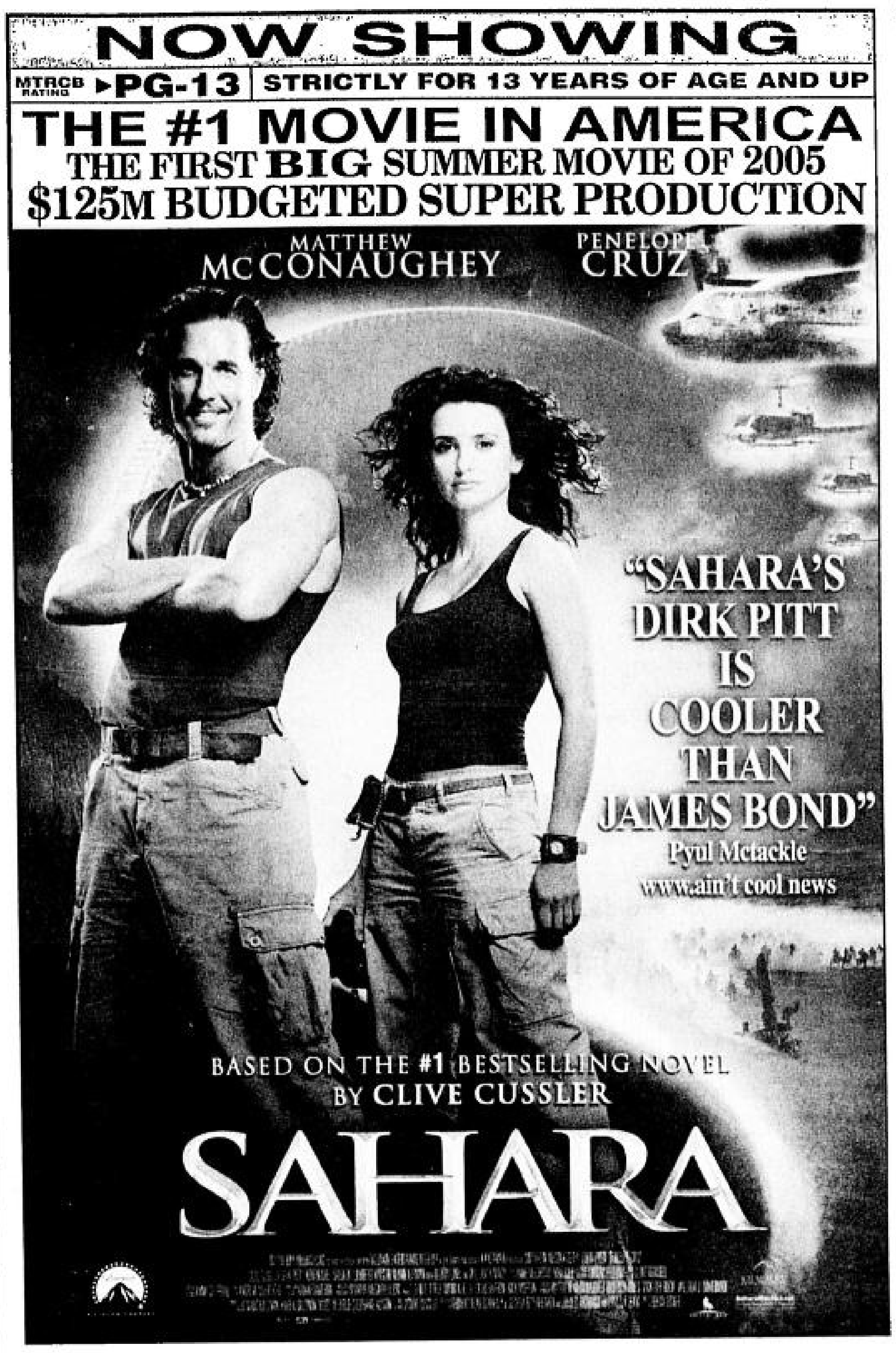
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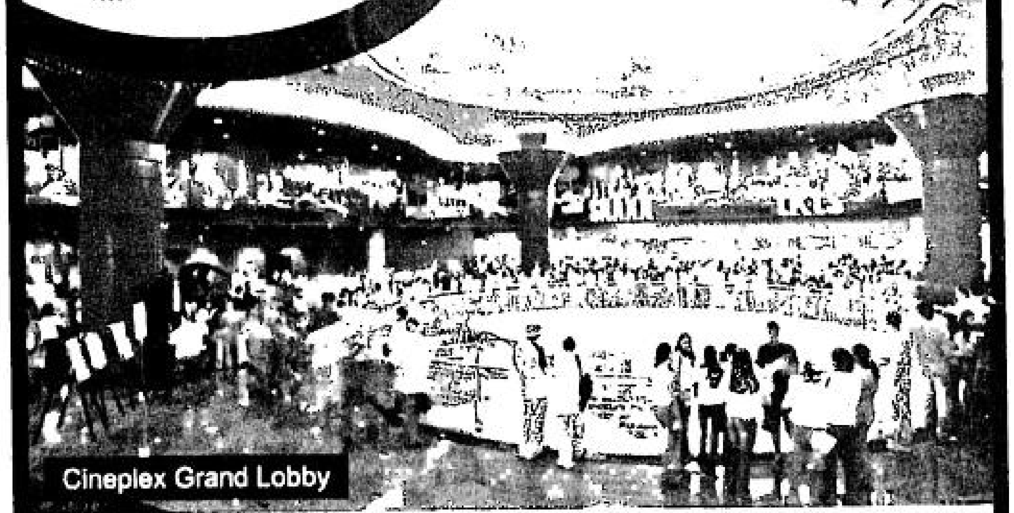
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FINDING NEVERLAND
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
SAMARA RING 2
12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
ONG BAK
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
SAHARA
1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
THE PACIFIER
2:00 / 4:25 / 6:50 / 9:15
SPONGEBOB & SQUAREPANTS
1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
HIDE & SEEK
2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
CLOSER
1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ FINDING NEVERLAND
11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
❷ ONG BAK
11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
❸ SAHARA
12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
❹ PELUKANG ITIM
11:10 / 1:25 / 3:40 / 5:55 / 8:10
❺ SAMARA RING 2
11:10 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
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April 15 Friday, 8pm
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April 16, Saturday, 8pm
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE *Apr. 17*
4:15pm Alaska vs Red Bull / 6:35pm Ginebra vs. Talk N' Text
MARTIN NIEVERA & PATTI AUSTIN LIVE!
April 22, Friday, 8pm

CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS
Handyman Spectacular Sunshine Days Sale ongoing until April 28 at Farmers Plaza
Sogo Home & Office Center Summer Hotshots Sale ongoing until April 24 at Ali Mall
Perfect Pitch Summer Swing Out Sale ongoing until April 30 at Ali Mall
SPECIAL PROMOS
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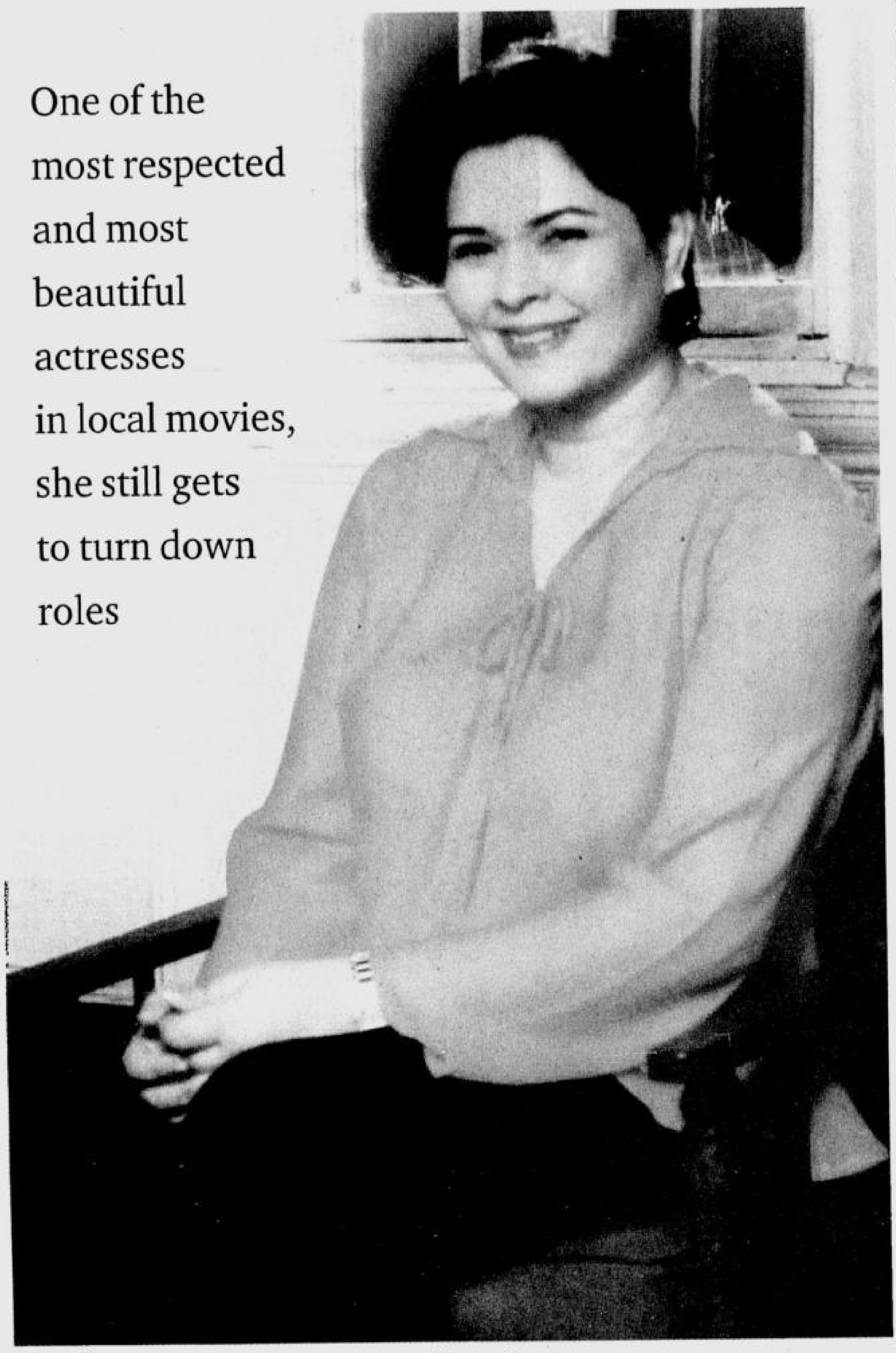
One of the most respected and most beautiful actresses in local movies, she still gets to turn down roles



The exquisite Hilda Koronel

By Nini Valera

EXCEPTIONAL older actresses never fade away. They become second leads in movies and continue to shine.

Hilda Koronel, a veteran of 36 years in Philippine movies, has remained one of the country's most respected actresses, as well as one of the most beautiful faces in show biz.

At 48, she has yet to lose sleep over the crow's feet at the corner of her eyes and some middle-age flab on her waist and hips.

"I'd like to age gracefully," she told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday. "I haven't done anything to my face or body. But I have nothing against lipo, botox… and all that. If it makes you happy and feel beautiful, then go ahead. But if you don't need it, what for?"

At the moment, Hilda is quite happy about how she looks. But, she joked, "I might go for those procedures any time now."

Unlike most actresses her age who have crept back into oblivion or found alternative careers, Hilda still gets to turn down roles.

"Sometimes, it's about the money, like the offer is really super low," she confided. "I also turn down roles that call for sex scenes, which I no longer want to do at my age.

"Even when I was younger, I was careful about accepting those types because of my children.

"I didn't want them to be teased in school about their mother being a bomba star."

But the present scenario is nowhere near the ideal that the golden age of Philippine cinema spawned in the '70s, when Lino Brocka ruled and Hilda, his muse, was the toast of the town, even at the Cannes Film Festival.

"It's different today, unlike during the time of Lino (Brocka)," she observed. "You barely get anything now. Most movies are not for our age, unlike in the States where actresses like Meryl Streep and Susan Sarandon still make good movies. Here, you are taken for granted as you grow older. What you get are roles for second lead *na lang*."

Whatever the role and no matter how short, Hilda is able to transform the part into an acting tour de force. She proved this mastery of her craft recently in two roles—as Chayong, the Quiapo denizen who prays for the intentions of other people for pay in director Laurice Guillen's "Santa Santita," and as one of the professional weepers in director Mike Meily's "Crying Ladies."

"Even if the roles are short, I would do the movie if the script is good," said Hilda.

Unfortunately, such roles come few and far between.

"That's why I'm so happy I got this movie, 'Nasaan Ka Man,'" said Hilda. "The script was written by Ricky Lee… and Ricky Lee movies have also become very rare. Very few good scripts come around these days. With this movie, we have a new director (Cholo Laurel) handling a beautiful script. There's everything in it—love, hate, vengeance, redemption and forgiveness. It's a lot of things."

Perhaps the biggest thrill for Hilda in making this movie is that she was cast as one of two spinster sisters from whose secret the story unfurls.

"It begins with us—Gloria (Diaz) and myself," Hilda explained. "Even if there are three young stars in the movie (Claudine Barreto, Diether Ocampo and Jericho Rosales), our roles here are not insignificant." Hilda savored every minute of the shoot.

There isn't a single remaining role that she's hankering to play.

She explained: "I started when I was 12. For six years, I had a television drama and played all imaginable roles possible. So I'm no longer looking for *the* ultimate role."

What she does wish for is the perfect setup in filmmaking.

"Like, you get a movie to play the novelist Iris Murdoch, and the story is centered on you," said Hilda. "While you're doing the movie, no one is thinking of the budget or thinking of timetables. Unlike roles that you have to finish in two or three days, I want a character that I can let live inside me. That's one thing I haven't really done."

Top-rating Aussie shows now on NBN 4

TWO of Australia's top-rating TV shows "On the Land" and "A Little Bit of Country" are now on NBN 4, 8 to 10 a.m. Saturdays.

During the shows' recent Manila launch, director-producer Les Abel said "A Little Bit of Country" has run across Australia for three years, the only free TV of its type on the continent. It features Australia's homegrown talents, whose songs could be a welcome breather from the sounds currently dominating FM radio stations and local television.

Australia has long "exported" talents to the US, and many of them have won American music awards. The newest such export is Catherine Britt, whom Sir Elton John is singing a duet with in his latest album.

Abel said the producers are looking for Filipino singers who may be trained to sing country music and participate in the show. He said his company, What A Great Idea, also plans to put up a club in Makati that will play only country music.

"On the Land" is a show about farming. Norman Olsen, the chair of the production group Spectrum International, said the 5-year-old show features farming practices in Australia that Filipino farmers can adopt. On the other hand, he said stories from the Philippines may eventually be broadcast in Australia via "On the Land."

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7 CLOSER
8 THE PACIFIER
9 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

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2 BOOGEYMAN
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1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
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5 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 FINDING NEVERLAND
7 SAHARA
8 SAMARA: RING 2

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1 THE WEDDING DATE
2 CLOSER
3 FINDING NEVERLAND
4 THE PACIFIER
5 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 SAHARA
7 ALONE IN THE DARK
8 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
9 SAMARA: RING 2
10 BOOGEY MAN
11 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
12 HIDE AND SEEK

sm city sta. mesa
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 FINDING NEVERLAND
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 PELIKANG ITIM
7 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
8 SAHARA
9 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
10 THE PACIFIER

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SAMARA: RING 2
4 THE WEDDING DATE
5 HIDE AND SEEK
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8 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
9 SAHARA
10 FINDING NEVERLAND

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3 SAMARA: RING 2
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2 SAMARA: RING 2
3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
4 THE PACIFIER

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1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 CLOSER
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 FINDING NEVERLAND

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1 FINDING NEVERLAND
2 BE COOL
3 THE WEDDDING DATE
4 SAMARA: RING 2

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1 FINDING NEVERLAND
2 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
3 THE PACIFIER
4 BE COOL

sm city bacoor
1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 FINDING NEVERLAND
3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
4 SAMARA: RING 2
5 SAHARA
6 THE PACIFIER
7 THE WEDDING DATE
8 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

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2 FINDING NEVERLAND
3 FINAL CUT
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2 RESERVED
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6 HITCH
7 HOSTAGE
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2 RESERVED
3 BE COOL
4 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
5 HOSTAGE
6 CLOSER
7 RESERVED
8 ALONE IN THE DARK

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EWTN turns in best coverage of Pope's funeral

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MANY TV channels telecast a full coverage of Pope John Paul II's wake and burial for days on end last week. Whose coverage was the best? Let's see:

Most everybody on cable did comprehensive backgrounds on the late Pope's achievements, the significance of his long pontificate, his rare qualities as a person, etc. And, on local "free TV" channels, the thrust was to make the coverage come to bear upon Filipino contexts, sensitivities and emotions.

This was generally a good thing, but it sometimes got out of hand, as local interviewers and their guests went into relatively unproductive detours that were too narrow and self-serving a view of the proceedings.

Some local interviewers also betrayed their ignorance about spiritual matters. Worse, they revealed their insensitivity to the significance and ramifications of the event.

This led us to surmise that they perhaps weren't very spiritual in their own lives. If so, why were they tapped to be on top of this obviously spiritual event? "Experience" isn't everything.

This is one of our beefs with the training that some local news and public affairs people here receive: They get a smattering of everything, and think that they're experts on anything.

This is wrong, because the television medium has a way of betraying incompetence, and holding it up for everyone to see.

Train specialists

What our TV networks need to do is to train specialist interviewers in different areas of news and public affairs—and religion, being an important component of life, should be one of them.

Only on-camera people trained to analyze and report on spiritual matters should have been tapped to do the most important work in the Vatican coverage last week (and in the days to come, as the action shifts from funeral to consistory).

Some of our TV hosts should admit to themselves that, when it comes to religious matters, they're either in the dark or in over their heads. Thus, they should take only support positions in the continuing coverage, and leave the complex work of analysis to people who are really in the know.

Edifying

In the light of these observations, even some of the big guns on CNN occasionally faltered. For all of their fame and experience they were sometimes stymied by the complicated ramifications of the late Pope's life and work, and the Catholic Church's increasingly complex role in the world.

That's why, from where we watched, the best coverage last week was turned in by the Eternal Word Television Network, the Catholic channel. Its interviewers and resource persons were carefully chosen and gave the event the sensitive, insightful and edifying handling it deserved.

This became truly clear on the day the Pope was buried. EWTN's coverage was the best that day because its interviewers and commentators, being steeped in knowledge about church tradition, knew when to talk and when to shut up.

Yakkity

Other channel's hosts yakked a blue streak, insensitive to the fact that a Holy Mass was going on. They took pauses in the service as "dead air" that had to be filled to keep the coverage "interesting."

On the other hand, EWTN's people knew that some of those quiet moments were in fact the times when people hearing the funeral mass should have been most prayerful and contemplative, and thus didn't bother viewers with insensitive prattle.

We trust that, in the coming days, the TV networks whose work has been found wanting can reorder their priorities, and do much better. Their viewers deserve nothing less.

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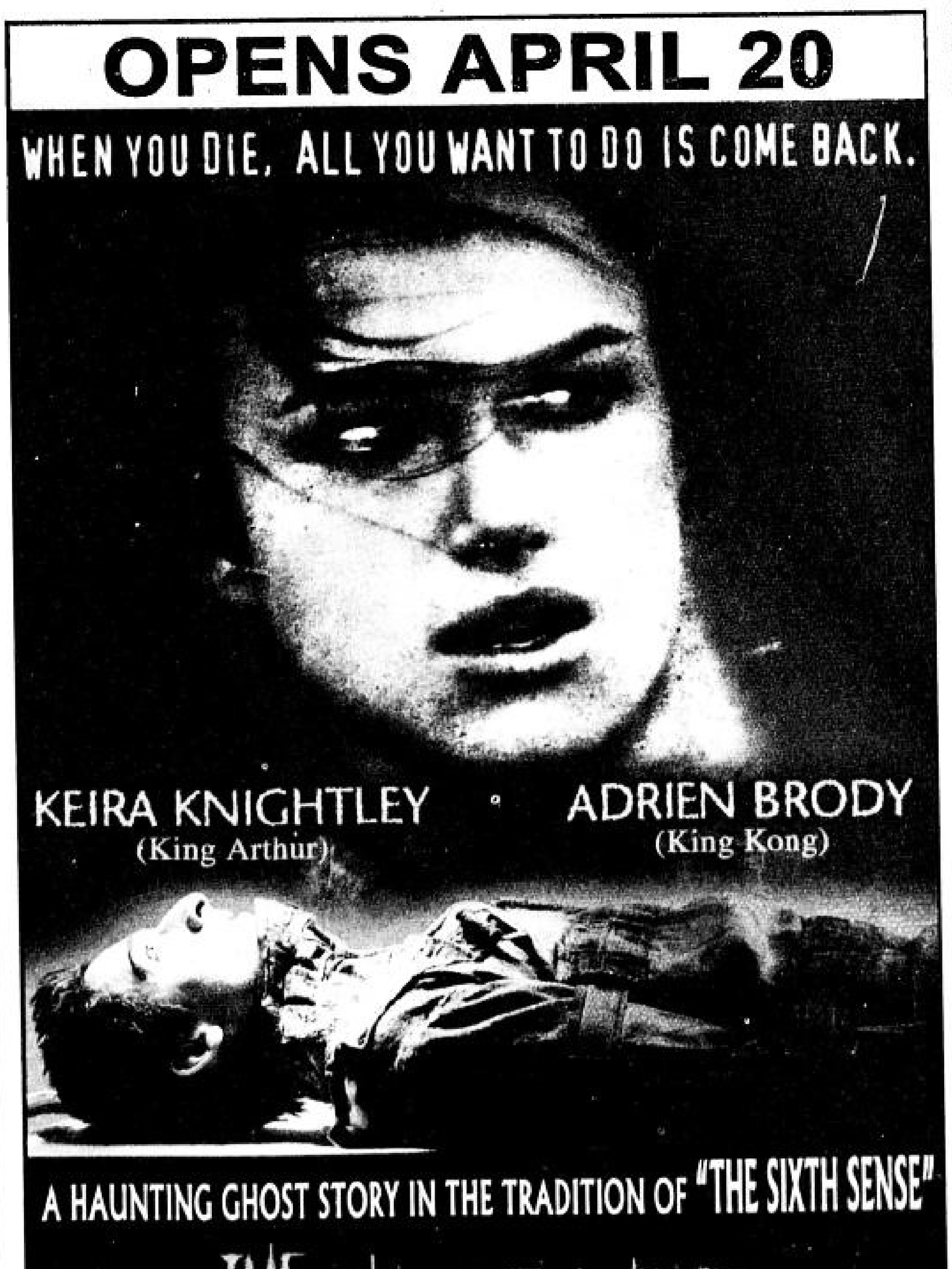
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Whether it's shaped as shells or ribbons, thin or thick, straight or twisted, Basta Pasta simply showcases the pasta's versatile flair in the menu that includes: Smoked Salmon Linguini (Tossed in light Garlic Cream sauce with Capers and Parmesan Cheese); Spanish Grilled Fettuccini (Grilled Prawns, Mussels, Chicken, and Chorizo in light Saffron Cream sauce with Tomato Salsa, Roasted Bell Peppers and assorted Olives); Lamb Skewer Penne (Grilled Lamb Kebab on Penne in Tomato and Eggplant sauce, topped with crumbled Feta Cheese flavored with Oregano); Spaghetti Quattro Formaggio (Spaghetti al dente in Blue Cheese, Feta, Swiss Cheese, and Parmesan sauce topped with Boursin Cheese Crostini) among others.

At the Pavilion Court on the other hand, the saying "you are what you eat" is endorsed in a promotion called Hot & Healthy.

Indeed, to be fit and healthy one needs nutritious food. With the Hot & Healthy menu, Chinese dishes are not only made nutritious but delicious. Try the Double-boiled Pigeon with Ginseng and Lotus Seeds (which improves cerebrovascular disorder); Sautéed Ostrich with Lychees (which provides protein and enhances intellect); Stewed Mutton with Sea Cucumber and Baling Mushrooms (which helps lower blood pressure); Pan-Fried Black Chicken Dumpling (which reduces stress) and more.

Available from April 11 to 23, for lunch, 12 noon to 3 p.m., and dinner, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

For inquiries and reservations, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extension 2505 (Rotisserie) and extension 2503 (Pavilion Court).

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The Bellevue grabs over-all champion title

THE BELLEVUE H.E.A.T.S. (Hotel Emergency Action Team for Safety) has been declared the over-all champion in the 1st National High Rise Building Fire Brigade Competition organized by the Safety Organization of the Philippines, held at Global City, Taguig recently. The team placed 1st in the High Rise Rescue Technique and Combination of Busted Hose and Up the Ladder events and ranked 2nd in the Flammable Fire Extinguishment and Fire Whiz challenge. They bested eleven competitors namely: Essensa East Forbes, Pioneer North, Pioneer South, Medical Plaza Ortigas, Alexandra Condo, LV Locsin Condo, Pacific Star, D&L Industries, Mirant Sual, Global City and Boysen Paints.

The Bellevue H.E.A.T.S. winning team is composed of Jun Moreno and Tata Parmis from Stewarding; Ramil Probadora, Felix Arriesgado, Nelson Gevero and Edwin Jandayan from Engineering; Henry Baniquet and Rolly Landayan from Security; Andrew Fil Reyes from Food and Beverage; Leo Bumanglag from the Front Office; Arnold Pruna and Vernon Villanueva from Housekeeping; Neil Esperanzate as Team Captain; Noel Lacsina as Team Manager; and Glennis Torralba as the Team Muse who is also the leading candidate of the Miss Fire Safety 2005.

The National Building Fire Brigade Competition is on its 17th year with the High Rise category being only added.

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PALM PLAZA HOTEL'S FIRST QUARTER SALES BLITZ 2005

PALM PLAZA HOTEL recently launched their quarterly sales blitz series for the year 2005. The main objective of this activity was to promote the Hotel's special rates, rooms and banquet packages to individual and group clients. Accounts visited were from travel agencies, government sectors and corporate companies from Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, and airlines in Metro Manila. Shown in the photo are (from left) Maricel Modelo - Banquet account manager, Joanna Yanzon - account manager, Barbie Canlas - sales manager, Donald Antonio - account manager, Rhesa Coloma - account manager, Shaoule Olpindo - senior account manager, and Joy Barba - account manager.

Summer getaway promo at City Garden

THIS LONG hot summer, City Garden Hotel Makati is offering special promotions for families and couples.

For those wanting to spend a relaxing day or a weekend with the family, City Garden Hotel's room promotion for as low as P1,350 per person on twin-sharing basis is an inexpensive treat. One can already enjoy the hotel's tastefully elegant guest rooms and facilities, inclusive of a choice of free sumptuous buffet breakfast for two or a Spa service at the hotel's Body & Face by Mendez, free use of its open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck and its fully equipped Gym at the Penthouse. Two (2) children below 12 years of age, sharing room/bed with parents, stay for free.

While at the Roofdeck, one can try its summer offering of all time favorites like Halo-Halo, Barbeque, sandwiches, pasta, pizza and other delectable choices, daily. At dinnertime, one can enjoy the magnificent view of the citylights.

Accessibility is also not a problem as the hotel is just five minutes from the Rockwell and Glorietta malls and the Makati Commercial and Business District. As an added amenity, the hotel is offering free scheduled shuttle service (drop-off) to the Makati CBD.

For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111.

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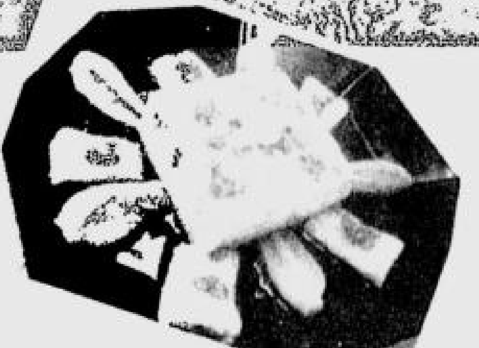
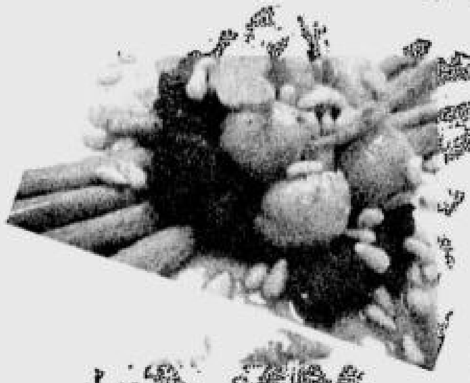
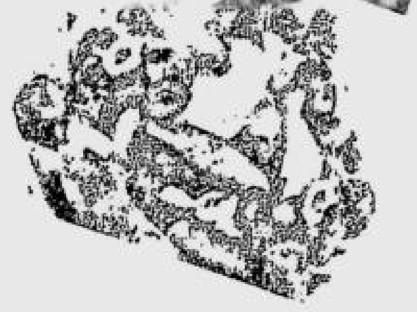






Pasta's versatile flair, and more

AT MANILA Pavilion Hotel's Rotisserie, the well-loved pasta rules and unites Italian food lovers in a promotion called Basta Pasta!

Whether it's shaped as shells or ribbons, thin or thick, straight or twisted, Basta Pasta simply showcases the pasta's versatile flair in the menu that includes: Smoked Salmon Linguini (Tossed in light Garlic Cream sauce with Capers and Parmesan Cheese); Spanish Grilled Fettuccini (Grilled Prawns, Mussels, Chicken, and Chorizo in light Saffron Cream sauce with Tomato Salsa, Roasted Bell Peppers and assorted Olives); Lamb Skewer Penne (Grilled Lamb Kebab on Penne in Tomato and Eggplant sauce, topped with crumbled Feta Cheese flavored with Oregano); Spaghetti Quattro Formaggio (Spaghetti al dente in Blue Cheese, Feta, Swiss Cheese, and Parmesan sauce topped with Boursin Cheese Crostini) among others.

At the Pavilion Court on the other hand, the saying "you are what you eat" is endorsed in a promotion called Hot & Healthy.

Indeed, to be fit and healthy one needs nutritious food. With the Hot & Healthy menu, Chinese dishes are not only made nutritious but delicious. Try the Double-boiled Pigeon with Ginseng and Lotus Seeds (which improves cerebrovascular disorder); Sautéed Ostrich with Lychees (which provides protein and enhances intellect); Stewed Mutton with Sea Cucumber and Baling Mushrooms (which helps lower blood pressure); Pan-Fried Black Chicken Dumpling (which reduces stress) and more.

Available from April 11 to 23, for lunch, 12 noon to 3 p.m., and dinner, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

For inquiries and reservations, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extension 2505 (Rotisserie) and extension 2503 (Pavilion Court).

Astoria Plaza's summer escapade

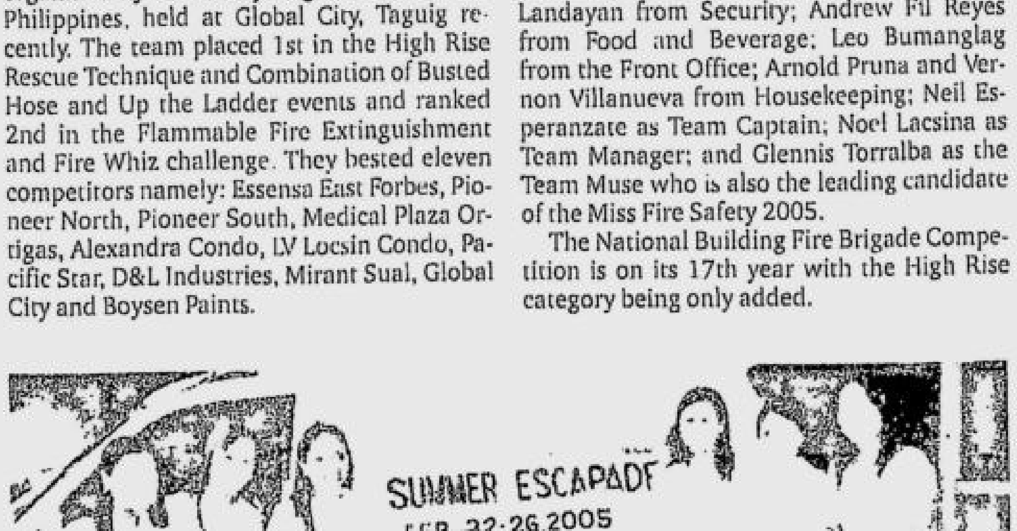
ESCAPE from the heat of the city and cool it in hip comfort and style. Check in a 1-bedroom suite for only P3,150 and a 2-bedroom suite for P4,950 at the Astoria Plaza. Splash to your heart's delight and take a dip in Astoria's fabulous and beckoning pools located at the hotel's third floor. Work out and exercise those tired muscles at the hotel's fitness center. Room rates are inclusive of buffet breakfast, complimentary bottled mineral water, roundtrip shuttle service to nearby malls and free use of the gym and the pool and coffee shop meal vouchers. Rates are subject to service charge and government. Lucky Astoria Plaza summer splashers get a chance to win exciting prizes such as 5 gift certificates for a rejuvenating express massage from Urban Spa and magazine subscription packages from Stargate Publications' People Asia magazine. Astoria Plaza's Summer Escapade Room Promo is valid from April 1 to June 30. For inquiries and reservations please visit or call telephone number (02)687-1111. Surf Astoria Plaza's webpage at www.astoriaplaza.com.

The Bellevue grabs over-all champion title

THE BELLEVUE H.E.A.T.S. (Hotel Emergency Action Team for Safety) has been declared the over-all champion in the 1st National High Rise Building Fire Brigade Competition organized by the Safety Organization of the Philippines, held at Global City, Taguig recently. The team placed 1st in the High Rise Rescue Technique and Combination of Busted Hose and Up the Ladder events and ranked 2nd in the Flammable Fire Extinguishment and Fire Whiz challenge. They bested eleven competitors namely: Essensa East Forbes, Pioneer North, Pioneer South, Medical Plaza Ortigas, Alexandra Condo, LV Locsin Condo, Pacific Star, D&L Industries, Mirant Sual, Global City and Boysen Paints.

The Bellevue H.E.A.T.S. winning team is composed of Jun Moreno and Tata Parmis from Stewarding; Ramil Probadora, Felix Arriesgado, Nelson Gevero and Edwin Jandayan from Engineering; Henry Baniquet and Rolly Landayan from Security; Andrew Fil Reyes from Food and Beverage; Leo Bumanglag from the Front Office; Arnold Pruna and Vernon Villanueva from Housekeeping; Neil Esperanzate as Team Captain; Noel Lacsina as Team Manager; and Glennis Torralba as the Team Muse who is also the leading candidate of the Miss Fire Safety 2005.

The National Building Fire Brigade Competition is on its 17th year with the High Rise category being only added.



PALM PLAZA HOTEL'S FIRST QUARTER SALES BLITZ 2005
PALM PLAZA HOTEL recently launched their quarterly sales blitz series for the year 2005. The main objective of this activity was to promote the Hotel's special rates, rooms and banquet packages to individual and group clients. Accounts visited were from travel agencies, government sectors and corporate companies from Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, and airlines in Metro Manila. Shown in the photo are (from left) Maricel Modelo - Banquet account manager, Joanna Yanzon - account manager, Barbie Canlas - sales manager, Donald Antonio - account manager, Rhesa Coloma - account manager, Shaouie Olpindo - senior account manager, and Joy Barba - account manager.

Summer getaway promo at City Garden

THIS LONG hot summer, City Garden Hotel Makati is offering special promotions for families and couples.

For those wanting to spend a relaxing day or a weekend with the family, City Garden Hotel's room promotion for as low as P1,350 per person on twin-sharing basis is an inexpensive treat. One can already enjoy the hotel's tastefully elegant guest rooms and facilities, inclusive of a choice of free sumptuous buffet breakfast for two or a Spa service at the hotel's Body & Face by Mendez, free use of its open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck and its fully equipped Gym at the Penthouse. Two (2) children below 12 years of age, sharing room/bed with parents, stay for free.

While at the Roofdeck, one can try its summer offering of all time favorites like Halo-Halo, Barbeque, sandwiches, pasta, pizza and other delectable choices, daily. At dinnertime, one can enjoy the magnificent view of the citylights.

Accessibility is also not a problem as the hotel is just five minutes from the Rockwell and Glorietta malls and the Makati Commercial and Business District. As an added amenity, the hotel is offering free scheduled shuttle service (drop-off) to the Makati CBD.

For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111.

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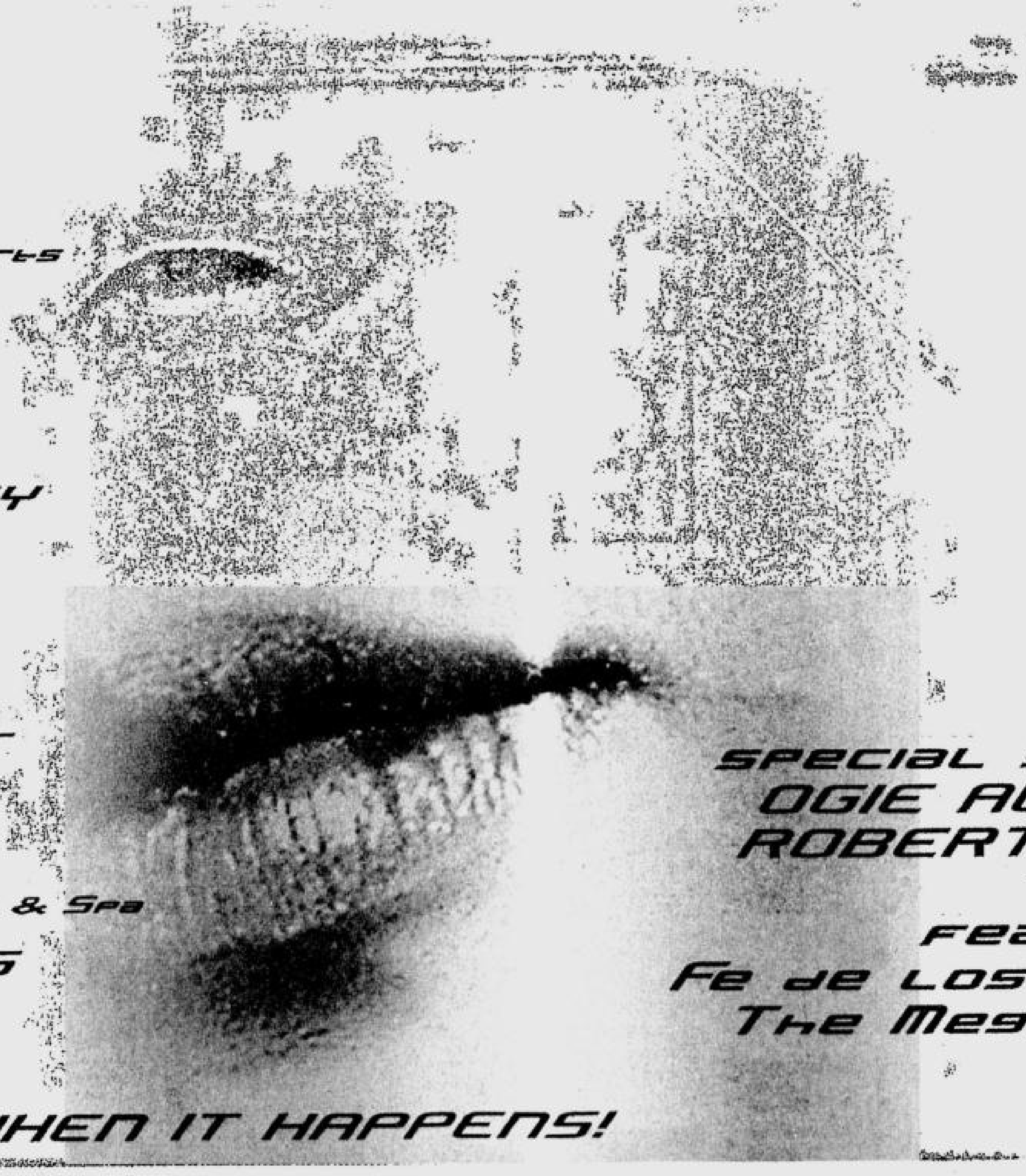

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Peso tumbles on market concerns over VAT

By Doris C. Dumlao, Abigail L. Ho and Michelle V. Remo

THE PESO yesterday tumbled back to 54.42 to the dollar after climbing to the 53 level on Wednesday as the market greeted with concern the passage of the Value Added Tax bill at the Senate.

According to foreign exchange dealers, the market fears that the two chambers of Congress will have a tough time reconciling their respective versions of the VAT reform bill.

The dealers cited the sharp differences between the Senate version and the one earlier passed by the House of Representatives.

According to an economist, the financial market favors the House version which, unlike the bill passed by the Senate, adopted the 12 percent hike in the VAT rate.

The increase from 10 to 12 percent in the VAT rate is a key reform being pushed by Malacañang.

The progress of the VAT bill is being monitored by investors as well as the country's creditors.

The local currency hit an intra-day high of 54.05 but fell throughout the day before closing near the intra-day low of 54.43.

Volume at the Philippine Dealing System hit $402 million.

The peso shed a hefty 32 centavos from the previous day's closing of 54.10 against the greenback.

Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines, said the market was more "indifferent" than disappointed.

"The crucial stage is the bicam (bicameral conference committee) now that the (increase in the VAT rate to) 12 percent was not approved," Hilado said.

Share prices at the Philippine Stock Exchange likewise fell by about 1.52 percent to 1,887.47 yesterday.

"Due to the big gaps that have to be crossed in coming up with a unified version, we expect some time will be spent in the legislative debates," Luz Lorenzo, an economist at ATR-Kim Eng Securities, said. "In the meantime investor sentiment will be influenced by whether the debates seem to be going the way of the Senate or the House, with the latter version more favored by the financial markets."

Department of Finance officials expressed their disappointment over the Senate bill, which excluded households and residential consumers from the proposed value-added tax on electricity.

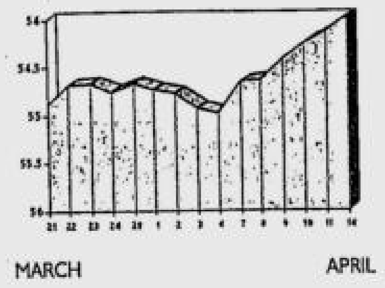
According to Joey Salceda, chief of Malacañang's economic management group, excluding residential users from the VAT on electricity would translate to P4.7 billion in forgone revenues for the government.

PESO/ B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.42 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., April 14, 2005

¥ 107.72 = $ 1

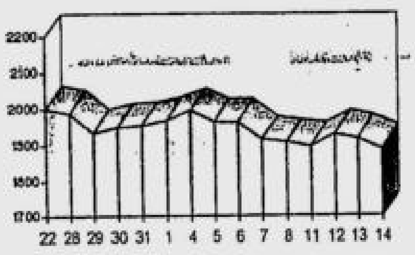
As of 5 p.m., April 14, 2005

GOLD: $429.00-429.50

per ounce Hong Kong, April 13, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B10)

Shares close 1.52% lower

SHARE prices yesterday closed 1.52 percent lower amid concerns that Congress could increase corporate income tax rather than value-added tax (VAT) as part of measures to raise government revenues, dealers said.

They said heavy losses on Wall Street overnight and weaker regional markets as a result added to the negative tone.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 29.11 points to 1,887.47 after trading between 1,885.90 and 1,923.19 on volume of 1.03 billion shares worth P1.29 billion. The all-shares index fell 4.21 points to 1,170.43.

Losers outnumbered gainers 59 to 17 with 45 unchanged.

SHARES/ B10

Smart says it doesn't enjoy tax breaks

SMART Communications Inc. yesterday took exception to claims in Congress that it was enjoying tax holidays, contributing to the low value added tax collection of the government.

In a statement, Smart public affairs head Ramon Isberto said that contrary to claims made by Rep. Herminio Teves, the company was properly paying its VAT obligations and was even paying some of it in advance.

Reacting to Teves' statement that Smart was still benefiting from tax holidays that would last up to July 2007, Isberto stressed that the company's main income tax holiday expired on May 2, 2004.

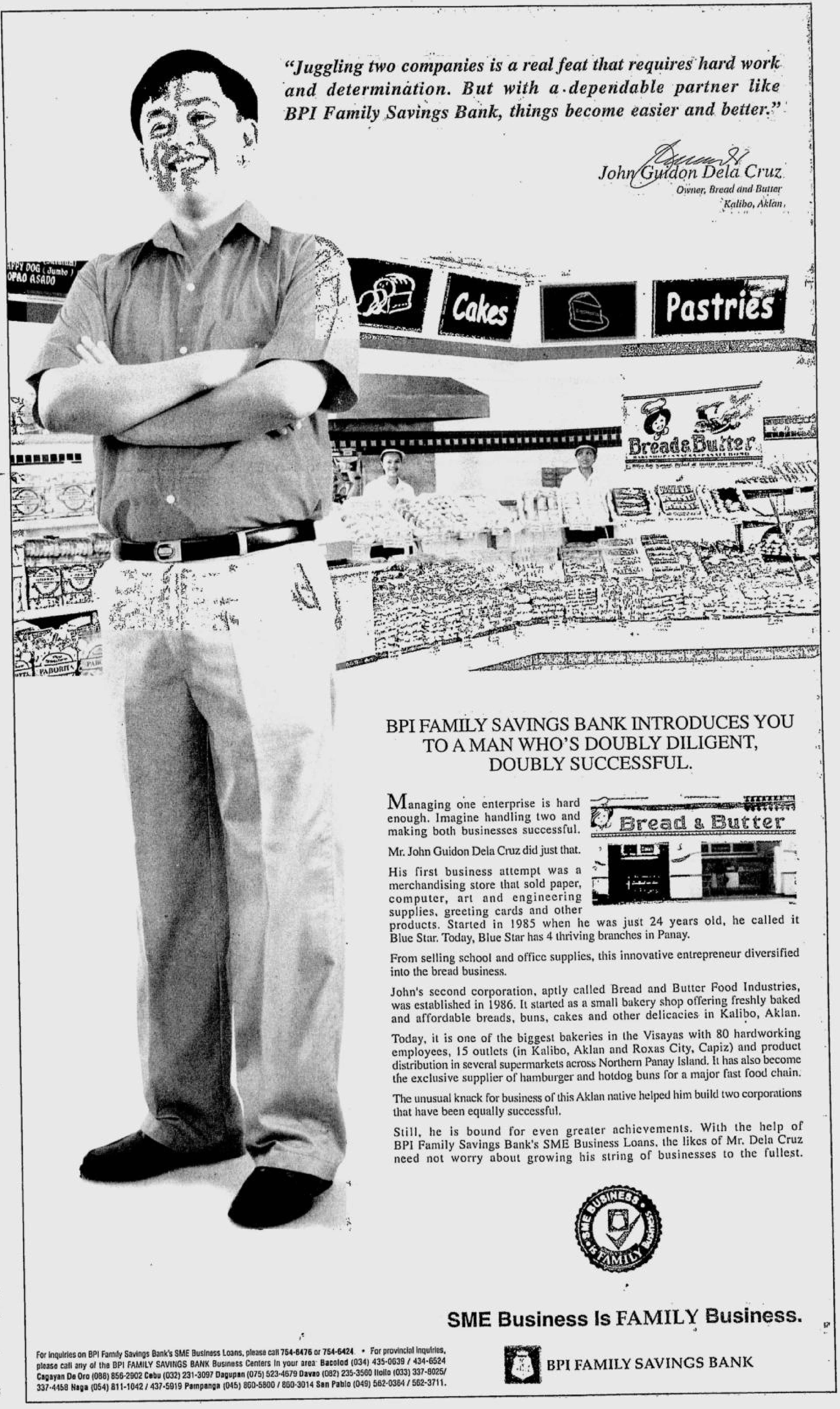
He said Teves might have been referring to a separate tax holiday granted to Smart under Board of Investments Registration No. 2001-102 for the Smart Payment Infrastructure System (PIS).

However, as previously disclosed to members of Congress, Smart voluntarily terminated that specific tax holiday last year. In a letter dated July 9, 2003, Smart petitioned the BOI to cancel Registration No. 2001-102, which was approved on Oct. 11, 2004.

Isberto also disputed Teves' statement that telecommunications companies were paying "only 0.86 percent of their sales from 1999 to 2004."

He said: "As we explained in various hearings at Congress, the quoted figure grossly understates the VAT payments of telecom companies because it takes into account only payments made to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and does not include VAT

SMART/ B5



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From selling school and office supplies, this innovative entrepreneur diversified into the bread business.

John's second corporation, aptly called Bread and Butter Food Industries, was established in 1986. It started as a small bakery shop offering freshly baked and affordable breads, buns, cakes and other delicacies in Kalibo, Aklan.

Today, it is one of the biggest bakeries in the Visayas with 80 hardworking employees, 15 outlets (in Kalibo, Aklan and Roxas City, Capiz) and product distribution in several supermarkets across Northern Panay Island. It has also become the exclusive supplier of hamburger and hotdog buns for a major fast food chain.

The unusual knack for business of this Aklan native helped him build two corporations that have been equally successful.

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BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

Chinese company seen putting up $10-M plant in Clark

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A CHINESE pharmaceutical firm plans to put up a $10-million plant at the Clark economic zone in Pampanga to expand its business of traditional as well as advanced medicine into the country, a diplomat yesterday said.

Special envoy Joey B. Antonio said in a forum of local investors doing business in China that many firms from the mainland were very interested in putting up operations here.

Antonio said drug firm Shanghai Seeinglong Bio-Tech Pharmaceutics Ltd., for instance, wanted to build here a replica of its $100-million production plant in Shanghai.

In June 2003, state-run Xinhua News Agency reported that Seeinglong Bio-Tech had started construction of a plant for the production of a recently developed painkiller that was capable of suppressing with an injection cancer-related pain for up to four months.

In January of the same year, the drug, named Acheless, passed preliminary clinical tests conducted by China's State Drug Administration.

The report said Chinese experts spent about a decade and $20 million to develop the drug with the support of state-funded research programs.

Yesterday, Antonio said Seeinglong Biotech wanted to invest in the Philippines and focus on the high-end market with traditional Chinese medicine, wellness therapy and medical tourism.

Also, the diplomat urged local investors to focus their resources in promoting business opportunities in China.

"There is a vast potential in doing business with China (in either Philippine-based or mainland-based ventures) especially in the sectors of mining, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure and services," he said.

In the same forum, Commercial Trade Attache Jorge M. Judan said Philippine firms expanding to the mainland must adopt strategies that would ensure a foothold in that giant market, such as finding niches.

Judan said that, for instance, homegrown Figaro Coffee Co.—which is putting up a branch in Shanghai—was targeting the high-end segment such as gourmet coffee lovers.

"Figaro has put in its radar the high-grade, top 100 buildings in the area," he said. "These are the areas where you can a captured market of expatriates with disposable income."

In March, Figaro chief executive Pacita U. Juan announced that the company was considering going public as it pushed for expansion in China, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Juan said Figaro was spending up to $600,000 for two branches in Shanghai, China, and a third in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. She said there were also plans to put up stores in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

Other local firms that have businesses in China include Bench, Liwayway Marketing, Philippines Airlines, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., and SM Prime Holdings.

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SONIC STEEL INDUSTRIES, INC.
By Bienvenido L. Dulce Jr.

In behalf of the company, I wish to correct the erroneous press reports saying that 80% of the company GI output is inferior quality.

Contrary to the reports, Sonic Steel is the country's most trusted and reliable manufacturers of GI sheets under the brand name of Superlume and Superzinc.

Sonic Steel GI sheets are produced in strict compliance with specification of the International Standard Organization (ISO) 9364 for Superlume and (ISO) 3575 for Superzinc. These ISO standards were latter translates to the Philippine National Standard Bureau of Product Standard under Department Administrative Order (DAO) no. 3 series of 2004. Hence, Superlume and Superzinc GI are currently in 100% compliance with the technical requirements set by the Philippine Government.

This is the main reason why the company is very selective in using the quality Cold Rolled Steel Coils. We are required to comply with product standards set by the Government, as we started during the Tariff Commission Hearing last April 11,2005.

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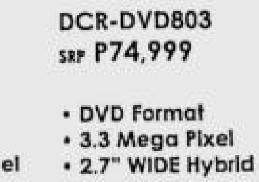

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Japan fumes as generals retreat

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

AFTER voting yes, the two ex-generals heading the transportation and public works departments have withdrawn their approvals for the LRT 1 expansion project, prompting the Japanese financier to break protocol to express frustration over the "long and meaningless delay" in the Y19 billion project.

"As I have pointed out earlier, this project has extraordinarily and needlessly (been) delayed for the past several years," Osamu Murata, Philippine representative of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, said in his March 31 letter to Public Works and Highways Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

"Sad to say, this project had already reached a point where JBIC can not anymore be held accountable to the Japanese taxpayers for the long and meaningless delay," Murata said.

Ebdane and his counterpart in DOTC, Leandro Mendoza, had earlier ordered their respective representatives in the board of the Light Rail Transit Authority to withdraw their previous approvals to proceed with the award of the second bidding, amid reports that the Ombudsman was investigating it.

But the JBIC official denied any irregularities, which saw first winning bidder Marubeni lose to another Japanese consortium, Sumitomo-Itochu, in the second bidding.

"JBIC had found nothing wrong with the bidding process as we have been involved in the various steps of the procurement process," Murata said.

The JBIC official has also written Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, urging the former SGV chair to "take strong and prompt leadership" to break the impasse, in view of the September 2006 loan closing date.

Even the congressmen are getting in on the action.

On Monday, the House committee on good government, chaired by Lakas Rep. Arthur Defensor and backed by Rep. Danilo Suarez and Monico Puentevella, will hold a hearing on the project, after another hearing last month was conducted by Rep. Augusto Baculio, chair of the House committee on railways and Ro-Ro.

Funded by the concessional Obuchi Fund, the LRT 1 expansion project will acquire 12 new four-car trains, construct a crossover bridge that will connect the Doroteo Jose station with the new LRT Recto/Avenida station, install system-wide closed circuit television, and upgrade electrical and electronic communication network for the entire line.

Mendoza gets SC clearance

MARCOS-era Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza may continue representing taipan Lucio Tan and Allied Bank in the sequestration cases.

The Supreme Court en banc threw out an appeal by the Presidential Commission on Good Government asking the Marcos-Erap counsel be disqualified on grounds that Mendoza had "actively intervened" as Central Bank counsel in the liquidation of GenBank during the martial law years.

Tan's Allied Bank later bid for and acquired the failed commercial bank.

"There is no charge against Mendoza that he advised the Central Bank on how to liquidate GenBank with an eye to later defending Tan, et al. of Allied Bank," the Supreme Court said.

It also noted that the Code of Professional Responsibility that prohibits even "congruent-interest conflict" was adopted in 1988, two years after Mendoza had already stepped down as solicitor general.

Two justices, Carpio-Morales and Callejo, issued dissenting opinions, while Tinga and Sandoval-Gutierrez issued separate concurring opinions. Two other justices, Azcuna (ex-PCGG) and Chico-Nazario (ex-Sandiganbayan), abstained.

The lengthy SC decision, written by Justice Puno, is in itself an academic treatise on the history of the legal profession's code of ethics and how it applies to former government lawyers.

Back to law books

CABANATUAN RTC Judge Tomas Talavera has been fined P21,000 by the Supreme Court for gross ignorance of the law, upon the complaint of the Community Rural Bank of Guimba.

Talavera, without notifying the complainant rural bank, granted the assistant provincial prosecutor's motion for reinvestigation, and "effectively demolished" the Department of Justice's power and supervision over government prosecutors since then Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas had already denied the petition for review filed by the accused, the Supreme Court said.

The prosecutor, Virgilio Caballero, subsequently reversed the previous fiscal's findings and, upon the judge's approval and without notifying the rural bank or its COO Olga Samson, withdrew the estafa cases despite the judge already having previously issued warrants of arrest, no bail set, for the several accused.

Heard through the grapevine

THE Philippine Stock Exchange, in a break from tradition, is considering making the hitherto honorary position of chairman a salaried office upon the "request" of the present occupant, banker Peter Favila.

The planned additional expenditure is on top of the P7 million a year the PSE allocates for its full-time president, lawyer Francis Lim.

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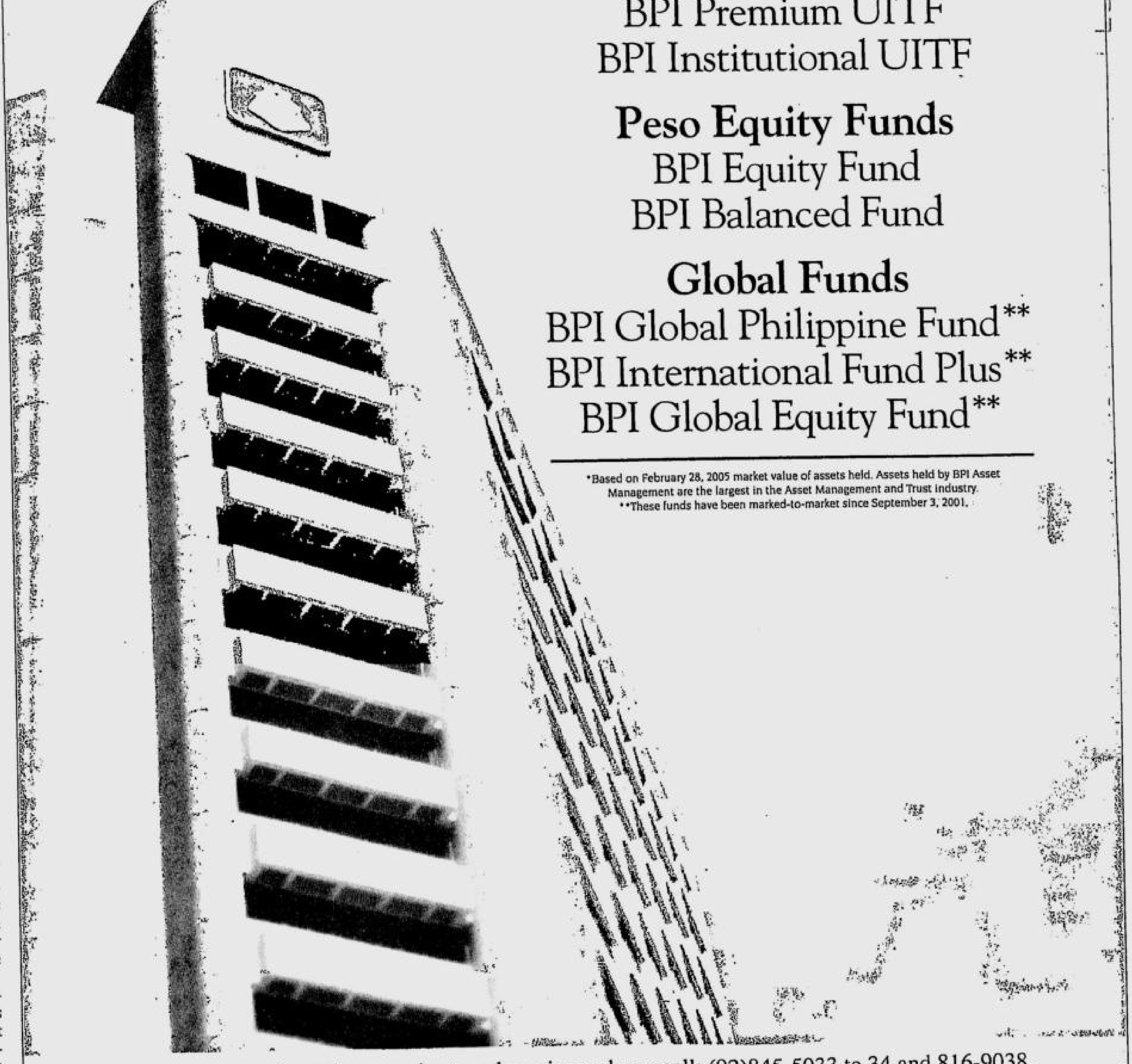

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PROPERTY INVESTMENTS

FLI raising capital to ₱16B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FILINVEST Land Inc. (FLI) of the Gotianun family is gearing up for new acquisitions and property investments this year after its board approved the increase in its capital stock to P16 billion from P10 billion.

In a statement, FLI said its board approved on April 13 the increase in the company's authorized capital stock since "a larger capital will be necessary to support the expected growth" of its businesses.

FLI said the proposed capital increase would also give the company the financial muscle to support "possible acquisitions or investments, and improvement in working capital."

Related to this, FLI's board also approved the declaration of stock dividends worth P1.5 billion.

Supporting its capital hike is FLI's net earnings in 2004 worth P596 million, 17 percent more than its net income of P508 million in 2003.

Higher real estate sales which grew 52 percent to P2.24 billion boosted income. Total assets of FLI stood at P26.22 billion.

This year, the company is planning to launch new middle income projects in Cebu and Davao, and a new phase in its Villa Montserrat project in Taytay.

"FLI continues to plan for growth for 2005. It will open new phases in its existing projects and it is looking for development opportunities in various growth areas in the country," FLI said in its statement.

Among FLI's latest flagship projects is Timberland Heights, a 677 hectare highland resort community just 15 minutes away from Batasan Pambansa in Quezon City. Within Timberland Heights is Mandala Farm Estates, a residential community with a farming component.

FLI is one of the country's leading property developers, focusing on middle income residential housing development. It builds farm estates, leisure products and industrial estates. It holds 20 percent in Filinvest Alabang Inc. (FAI), its flagship company for commercial and office development.

Staff support essential to agriculture development

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

WHEN given the right information, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap decides quickly. The farmers and fisherfolk appreciate this.

When Yap was given the proper staff work to implement a special measure increasing the tariff on onions because of an unusual surge in imports, which harm local farmers, he signed an order within an hour. Unfortunately, it took three weeks for the staff work to get to his desk and more than four weeks to implement the order.

When Yap found out that a proposed agreement with China to legalize carrot importation lacked the proper staff work on phytosanitary safeguards, he immediately canceled the signing. Unfortunately, the signing was on the next day, thus causing embarrassment for our government.

Yesterday, we read about the destruction of the imported Pacific white shrimp (P. vannamie) brood stocks. It had been discovered they had a disease that could cause great damage to our entire shrimp industry.

Again, Yap acted quickly in ordering their destruction. According to executive director Arsenio Tanchuling of the Tambuyog Development Center, this problem could have been avoided if the proper staff work had been done.

White shrimp issue

The importation and culture of P. vannamie has been prohibited since 2001 by Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 207. However, Sec. 2 of this order allows exemptions if the importation is for "scientific and education purposes." Last November, Yap allowed *P. vannamie* importation using this exemption.

Tanchuling said that before *P. vannamie* was banned, it was suspected to have caused the widespread shrimp diseases in Negros prawn farms in the late 1990s. This led to the sharp decline in annual shrimp production from 90,000 metric tons to 40,000 metric tons. This is because *P. vannamie* carries diseases such as the white spot syndrome virus that is deadly to shrimps.

Indications of danger were highlighted earlier by the mortality of at least 13 percent of the brood stocks (145 out of 1,100) in the ongoing trial. Initial tests by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) laboratory showed samples to be positive of the deadly taura syndrome virus.

The problem

There was a staff oversight in the DA special permit, where it did not specify that the importation was to be limited to scientific and educational purposes. This is contrary to FAO 207. Another oversight was that the intent to propagate and commercialize the species was ironically spelled out in a subsequent memorandum of agreement between the BFAR and Agrifisheries World Incorporated , as well as in BFAR's Fisheries Office Order 031. The latter orders the creation of task force *P. vannamie*, whose main function is to prepare accreditation guidelines for "commercial breeding and grow out farming," even when the experimentation was still going on.

This special order also overlooks the regulations set out in Fishery Administrative Order 221. This requires that live fishery species to be imported be first categorized as low risk, medium risk, high risk, or prohibited. Medium to high risk species further requires an import risk analysis. Tanchuling said this was not done.

Dr. John Albaladejo, head of the BFAR shrimp importation monitoring and surveillance task force was quoted as saying: "The bureau (BFAR) is concerned about the introduction of the (P. vannamei) species. We find it not only damaging to the shrimp industry, but also to the natural species that we have here (in the country)."

Other examples

When the golden snail (kuhol) was imported for livelihood generation purposes, the controls were very lax. Today, the golden snail has spread to the rice fields and is a major pest. To fight this, farmers mainly use imported pesticides. This is costly. It damages our soil and environment, and harms the health of our consumers.

When the janitor fish was imported to eat the waste found in aquariums, the controls were likewise lax. They are now the predominant species in Laguna Lake. As a result, they eat the food that would otherwise have gone to our local fish, thus decreasing the latter's supply. Unfortunately, janitor fish are not edible. Furthermore, because of their hard scaly skin, they often destroy our fish nets. The result is less livelihood for our fishers and less fish for our consumers.

The impending carrot case

On Wednesday next week, the DA will hold a public consultation on carrot importation from China. It should be noted that because of poor staff work, DA allowed carrot importation from July to December 2003 without the proper phyto-sanitary safeguards.

This may occur again. The results of the DA risk assessment of quarantine pests present in carrots from China, but not yet present here, indicate two bacterial pathogens which have a high risk of being introduced into our country. Seven other identified new plant pathogens have a moderate rating for estimated risk in entering our agro ecosystem. Considering these dangers, and realizing the impact of extremely low priced imported Chinese carrots on the livelihood of our carrot farmers who have not been given the same support as the farmers from China, it is absolutely necessary that this matter be carefully studied instead of being rushed. The practices in Australia and Japan may be good examples to follow.

In importing agricultural products that may carry diseases or pose hazards to our consumers and farm community, it is imperative that thorough staff work are provided.

The current DA staff is of high quality, but has not been given the budget and resources they need. It is time we supported them fully for the benefit of our agriculture.

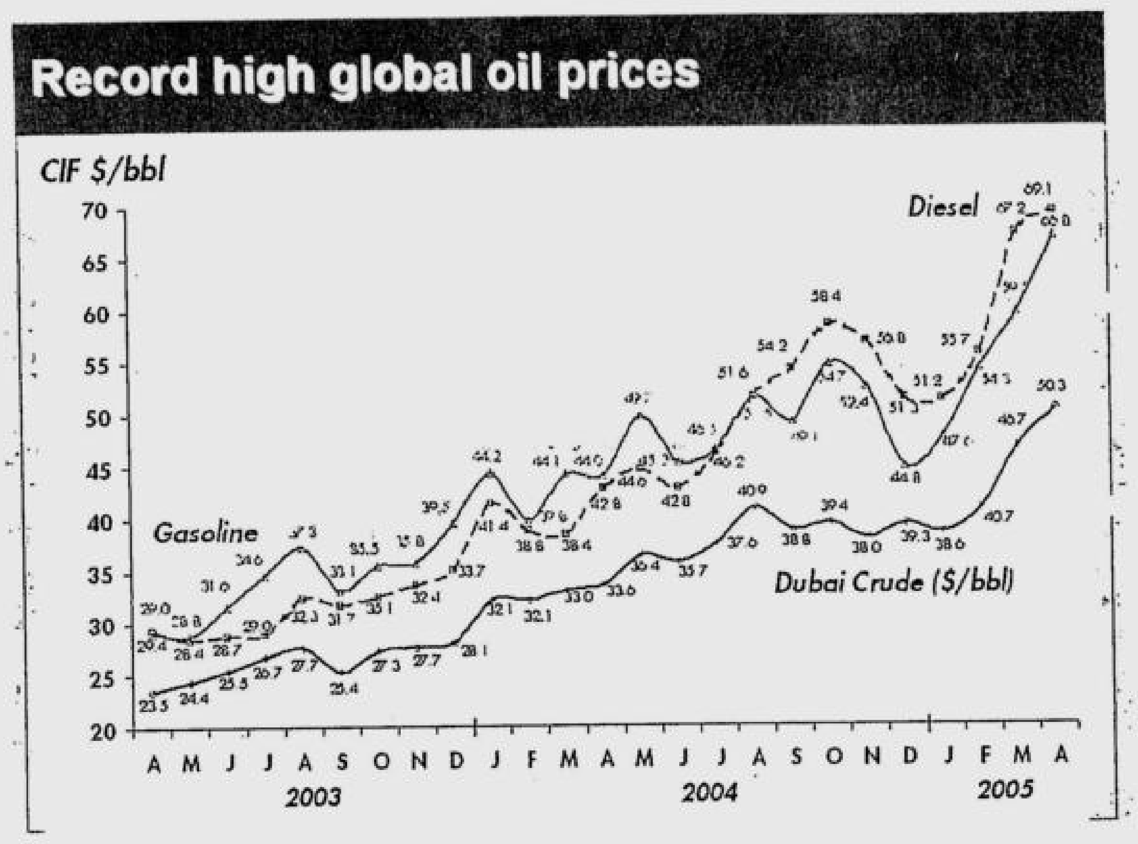
(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

Since the beginning of this year, so much has been said and written about the series of oil price hikes. Consumer Oil Price Watch (COPW) has been issuing misleading statements and accusing the oil companies of oligopoly, price overcharging and urging the Government to investigate the manner in which oil pump prices are adjusted.

Please allow us to share with you the facts and our views on these issues:

➢ **"Arbitrary and too frequent increases in oil prices"** – The primary causes of increase in local prices is not the deregulation of the oil industry but the persistent crude oil and finished product price increases in the world market, which have risen by as much as 30% since the start of the year and more than 100% since the start of 2003. All the countries in the world are reeling from the effects of continuing increase in prices.


Record high global oil prices

➢ **"The oil industry is an oligopoly or a cartel as the timing and the amount of increases evidences this"** – the simple reason behind close timing of increases and very similar amount is because the market is very competitive and the consumers are very price sensitive. If there is a 30 or 50-centavo price difference between service stations, motorists will flock to the station that gives them a cheaper price. This is also true for commercial accounts (large companies consuming petroleum products). Therefore, oil companies ensure that their prices are very competitive and that they adjust their prices quickly in line with the market movement. Dealers and customers (as well as media) normally advise oil companies if there is a competing oil player that have announced a change in price.

The final proof of the non-existence of an oligopoly or cartel is the financial performance of the oil companies. If there is a cartel or oligopoly, every oil company will be making money and will have attractive returns on their investment. A check with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) will show that the major oil companies have suffered losses in various periods of time and although profits were also generated, the investments are very large (about P 50bln for Shell) such that the Return of Rate Base (RORB) ranges only from 3-4%. How can this be a cartel/oligopoly then?!?

➢ **"Petron and Shell have refineries so they should not price their products the same as importers. They are overcharging the market."** - A refinery is a separate investment from depots and gas stations and is a huge investment, which requires a fair return to ensure continued investment and operation. At the moment, the refining business is not attractive in the country. Proof of this is the closure in Oct of 2003 of a refinery in Batangas. Another proof is the absence of any investment in a refinery by any new oil player in the market despite the fact that local refineries can only supply 50% of the market's requirements so 50% of finished products are already imported. New players have only invested in storage facilities and gas stations.

So how can Petron and Shell price their products lower when their refineries are already not giving sufficient return on investments? It is also like saying that it is ok to pay refineries outside the country a higher price and make them profitable but is not ok to pay the same price to local companies and make their refineries profitable!

On the basis of the above comments, Shell is therefore of the view that ***the manner of local oil price settings are not arbitrary and that the adjustments are not unjustified***, as it is primarily driven by global factors and movements in the exchange rate.

Shell welcomes the recent announcement by the DOE to review the oil deregulation law and also the various hearings conducted by the Senate and the House of Representatives on oil pricing. We believe these are the relevant fora to discuss and clarify the issues and concerns about the oil industry, not the ad hoc press conferences organized by consumer advocate groups, which have inadequate information and insufficient understanding of the oil industry.

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KLM projects higher market share, passenger volume

By Clarissa S. Batino

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines hopes to increase its market share in the country to as much as 24 percent this year, from 18.9 percent, after securing additional flight entitlements between Manila and Amsterdam.

Bingo Braganza, marketing manager of KLM here, said the carrier was projecting a 25-percent increase in sales with the daily flights it had started in late March. The airline used to fly between Manila and Amsterdam five times a week.

KLM offers nonstop, 14-hour flights from Manila to Amsterdam daily, aboard a Boeing 777 that can accommodate 292 economy passengers and 35 business class customers.

Braganza said the airline was hitting an average load factor of 92 percent.

Aside from KLM, the only other European carrier flying to Manila is German firm Lufthansa. The two are competing fiercely with Asian and Middle Eastern carriers that offer cheaper rates.

Braganza said KLM was putting a premium on its nonstop flights, which he said, offered the shortest flight from Manila to Europe.

For its summer promo, KLM is selling round-trip business class tickets for $2,370 and economy tickets for $777. The discounted economy tickets are available for Tuesday and Thursday flights.

In 1998, there were eight airlines serving the Manila-Europe route. These were British Airways, Swissair, Air France, KLM, Alitalia, Lufthansa and Aeroflot, apart from Philippine Airlines. These carriers operated a combined 39 flights a week between Manila and seven European capitals, 12 of them nonstop services.

Smart

From page B1

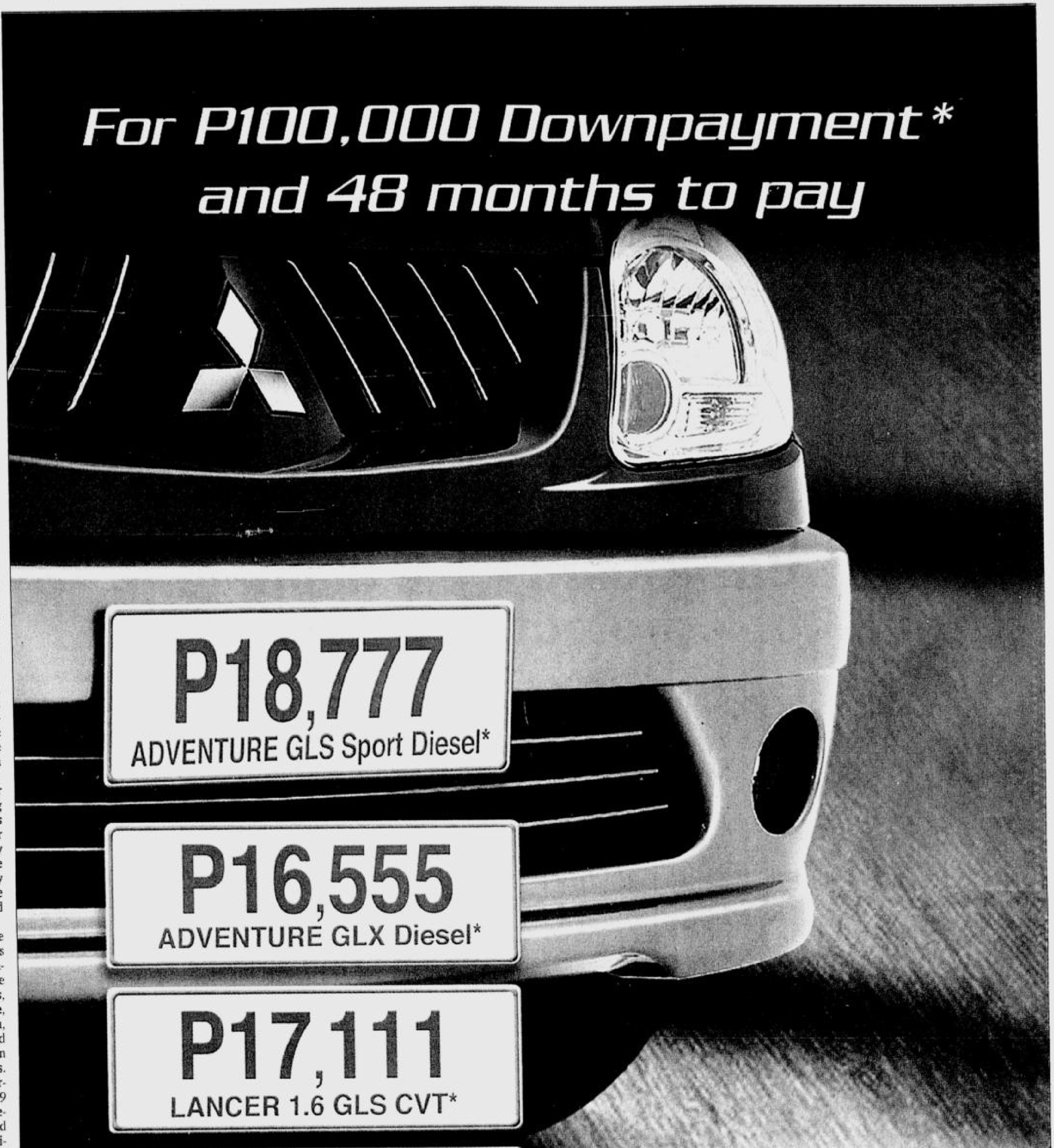
payments made to the Bureau of Customs.

Mandatory under the VAT law, VAT payments to the BOC were made in connection with capital imports for building its cellular network. From 2000 to 2004, Smart's payments to the customs bureau averaged at over P2 billion a year.

He added that the VAT remitted to the BOC represented advance payments of the company's obligations despite the fact that no revenue had been generated at that point in time.

Isberto stressed that the company was tax-compliant and did not shirk from its obligation to pay the correct taxes.

In fact, he said, Smart has been the recipient of several awards from the BIR in recognition of its tax contributions. These awards include: The Centennial Taxpayer Recognition Program Award (2004); The Billionaire Club Award 2004; Top Grosser Award (for Total Tax Payments) 2003; Top Grosser Award (for income tax payments) 2003; Super Grosser Award 2003.



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LANCER 1.6 MX CVT	838,000	120,600	22,315	15,608	14,195
ADVENTURE GLX DSL (9 seater)	740,000	115,000	19,706	13,782	12,535
ADVENTURE GLS SPORT GAS M/T	795,000	139,000	21,170	14,807	13,467
ADVENTURE GLS SPORT DSL	805,000	141,000	21,436	14,993	13,636
ADVENTURE GRAND SPORT DSL	935,000	152,000	24,898	17,414	15,839

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Price war not yet over for telcos

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART Communications Inc. and listed unit Pilipino Telephone Corp. are back on the price warpath as they gear up for the launch next week of the second phase of the 258 promo, a 30-day unlimited call and text offering.

The leading wireless duo's joint offering features a "revitalized" buffet pricing of P115 for unlimited calls and P60 for unlimited text, sources said.

Their first phase of the 258 promo, which was launched on March 11, ended last Sunday.

To avoid congesting their network that currently accommodates more than 20 million subscribers daily, Smart and Piltel are imposing a cap on the length of the unlimited calls to no more than three minutes during peak hours and a maximum of 10 minutes per call during off-peak hours of 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Globe Telecom Inc. said it had no plans yet to launch a similar program.

On April 7, Globe ended its 30-day unlimited call promo for Touch Mobile subscribers and cut short a similar 30-day offering for Globe prepaid customers.

"This strategy is being assessed daily," said Globe assistant vice president Froilan Castelo.

Sun Cellular set off the price war when it launched in October its 24/7 plan, which allowed subscribers to call and text within the network without limit for P250 for 30 days and P100 for P10 days.

The price of 24/7 is now P350 for 30 days and P100 for seven days. It also sells unlimited text for P50 for seven days and P150 for one month.

Smart yesterday submitted to the National Telecommunications Commission its application for the second phase of its unlimited promo.

Aside from the caps imposed on calls, Smart and Piltel also shortened the length of the buffet package.

"We are proceeding with the second phase of the promo because we are addressing a niche market that is clamoring for this kind of service," said Rogelio Quevedo, head of legal for Smart and Piltel.

He said the company had to start imposing caps to prevent network congestion.

Even with more than 5,000 cellular sites and base switches, Smart's network still felt the pressure of the unlimited offering.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week April 12, 2005	Last Week April 05, 2005
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Managed Fund - Peso	1.32899	1.33238
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0892	1.0835

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

iBank declares cash dividend

INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank (iBank) has declared a 30-centavo cash dividend to stockholders of record as of April 20.

The dividend, which was recently approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, will be paid on May 4, 2005.

"With iBank continuously growing in terms of size and profitability, we are rewarding the investors who have placed their trust in this organization. This cash dividend reflects how iBank values its shareholders," said iBank president and CEO Ramon Sy.

The cash dividend comes at the heels of an earlier announcement of the bank's financial results in 2004. Bank officials said iBank posted a 20.7-percent increase in net income to P523 million in 2004 from P433.0 in 2003.

iBank operates a network of 75 branches catering to the banking needs of mostly middle to upper class customers. It is now the country's 20th largest bank in terms of assets and sixth (based on the Dec. 16, 2004 published quarterly report) in terms of return on equity among 42 universal and commercial banks.

The company's shares are traded at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) under the symbol "IBNK."

Peso . . .

From page B1

Of the electricity distributed by Manila Electric Co., the largest electricity distributor, 36 percent are consumed by household, 35 percent by commercial, and 28 percent are industrial clients. The rest are used to maintain streetlights.

The DOF officials said they would still push for the inclusion of residential consumers in the VAT coverage when the bill is submitted to the bicameral conference committee of Congress for final deliberations next week.

The 10-percent VAT on the power sector, as proposed by the Senate, also replaces the 2-percent franchise tax imposed on their gross sales.

Emmanuel Bonoan, finance undersecretary, said it could have been acceptable for the DOF to spare households from the VAT on power if the franchise tax was not repealed.

"Franchise tax on distribution utilities should not be removed if there will be no VAT on households because they will just cancel each other out (in terms of amount of revenues to be generated)," Bonoan explained.

According to Salceda, entities like the National Power Corp. would not be able to collect VAT from some of its customers.

He then said that a tariff increase would be the most logical recovery mechanism.

"Napocor could seek a tariff rate hike of at least 50 centavos per kWh," he said. "What we can't collect from some can be collected from other contracts, which is very easy. Inevitably, there will be a tariff increase of 50 centavos in order to collect what has not been collected."

Other salient features of the Senate VAT reform bill include:

- removal of the exemptions on several goods and services including power generation, refined petroleum products, imported passenger and cargo vessels over 5,000 tons, domestic air carriers and professional services, including legal and medical;
- reversal of some of the effects of the lifting of VAT exemptions by removing the excise tax on refined petroleum products used by lower-income groups such as kerosene, diesel, LPG and bunker fuel and reduces the excise tax on naphtha and regular and premium gasoline; and,
- increase in the corporate income tax rate to 35 percent from 32 percent until 2009, when it reverts to 32 percent.

"The Senate version is substantially different from the House version, not only in the retention of the 10 percent VAT rate, but also in the areas where it dilutes the impact of the removal of VAT exemptions by canceling excise taxes and where it increases the corporate income tax rate," Lorenzo said.

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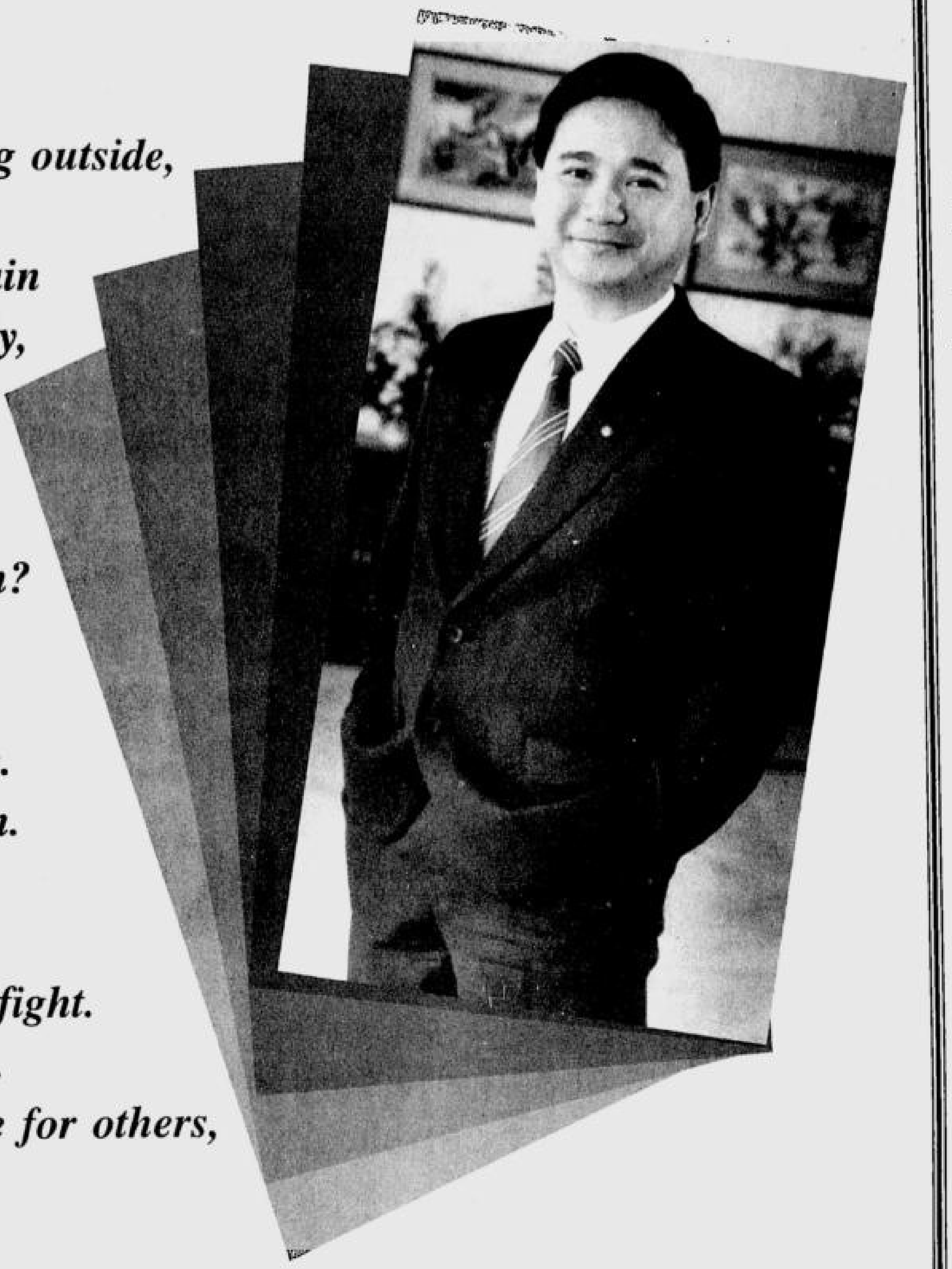

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We gather to pray his prayer, hoping as he had hoped that his death brings meaning into people's lives.

Indeed his death is not a loss but a victory, achieved with the noblest of weapons: a high moral spirit and a righteous heart.

PriceSmart sales up in Feb., will keep RP stores

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MEMBERSHIP-BASED retailer PriceSmart Philippines yesterday said it remained committed to stay in the country as it reported a sales growth of 14 percent in the second quarter.

PriceSmart's fiscal year starts in September.

"This (reinforced) our sales performance in the first quarter (September to November) when we posted a 6-percent growth," said PriceSmart president Benjamin Woods.

"We are looking at continuing improvement in sales as our members increase, which in turn induces increased turnover," he added.

The PriceSmart chief said a main driver of sales growth was the unique and higher-value items available in the firm's four warehouse-stores.

PriceSmart has outlets in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City; Congressional Avenue in Quezon City; Baclaran in Parañaque City; and Alabang in Muntinlupa City.

Woods downplayed reports that PriceSmart was in financial dire straits globally and likely to shut down its Philippine operations.

"We view the Philippines as a growth market and while there are various challenges facing PriceSmart (here), these are part of efforts in growing the business in a new market," he said.

California-based PriceSmart is the first company to take advantage of the liberalization of the retail trade industry.

The firm introduced the concept of warehouse shopping which promises "high-quality, low-priced goods to its members."

Last December, the company

PRICESMART/ B9

WOODS

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY ON PAINKILLERS

This public health advisory is being issued in the interest of patients' information and benefit as approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).

Pfizer would like to clarify that contrary to some media reports, Celebrex (celecoxib) continues to be available in the market as a safe and efficacious option for pain treatment according to the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).

On April 12, 2005, the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) issued an advisory on painkillers which includes -

- A request for Pfizer to voluntarily withdraw Bextra (valdecoxib) and Dynastat (parecoxib) from the Philippines due to very rare skin reactions;
- A mandate to all pharmaceutical companies to revise product labels of prescription and over-the-counter non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to give additional information about potential side effects, including cardiovascular, gastrointestinal and skin reactions.

In deference to the agency's views, Pfizer agreed to voluntarily suspend the sales of Bextra and Dynastat. Considering the benefits that these products offer to patients, Pfizer is appealing the decision of BFAD.

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Vulcan in deal with Aussie firm

By Christine A. Gaylican

VULCAN Industrial and Mining Corp. has recently signed a mines operating agreement with Australian firm Medusa Mining Ltd. to develop the Panaon Island Gold project in Surigao del Norte.

According to Vulcan Mining Corp. president Patrick Caoille, the mines operating agreement would lead to the signing of a joint venture agreement between the two companies within the quarter.

He said that even if exploration studies have yet to be done, Vulcan was confident that the Panaon Gold Project would yield about a million ounces of gold.

The exploration permit acquired by Vulcan covers some 1,646 hectares of the northern Surigao mineral district.

He told the INQUIRER that Medusa was already in advanced negotiations with an investment group that has committed to put in $1 million in initial funds.

Caoille noted that the Australian group Medusa was an expert in narrow vein mining required by the project.

"The Panaon project has a long history of narrow vein mining dating back to the Spanish times. The veins are up to 1.5 meters wide and contain high grade shoots," he said in a separate disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Because Vulcan is the claim owner of the mining site, it will receive a 3-percent royalty from all gold and silver production, which it will also share with the old owners—the Meehliebs.

Vulcan also has the option to acquire 20 percent of the Panaon project, once it operates for more than three months at a rate of 100 tons per day.

Interest in old mining sites has grown since the Supreme Court allowed foreign-owned entities to invest in local mining prospects.

Foreign interests were seen crucial to the development of these mine sites as the high-risk activity involves millions in capital.

The Philippines is said to have one of the world's richest untapped mineral reserves.

PriceSmart sales up . . .

From page B8

filed in a US judicial court a suit against PriceSmart minority stakeholder William Go which "stemmed from Go's alleged failure to settle more than $917,307 in dues to PriceSmart."

For his part, Go filed with a local court a petition asking that PriceSmart be placed under receivership due to alleged anomalies done by PriceSmart top executives.

"We believe that the matter is best left to the competence of the Philippine legal system upon which we have strong faith and confidence," said Woods, one of those accused.

Woods also said PriceSmart was focusing on further expanding its membership base that had been continually growing since last year.

"We have realized success in generating consumer satisfaction since we launched this retail concept in 2000," he said.

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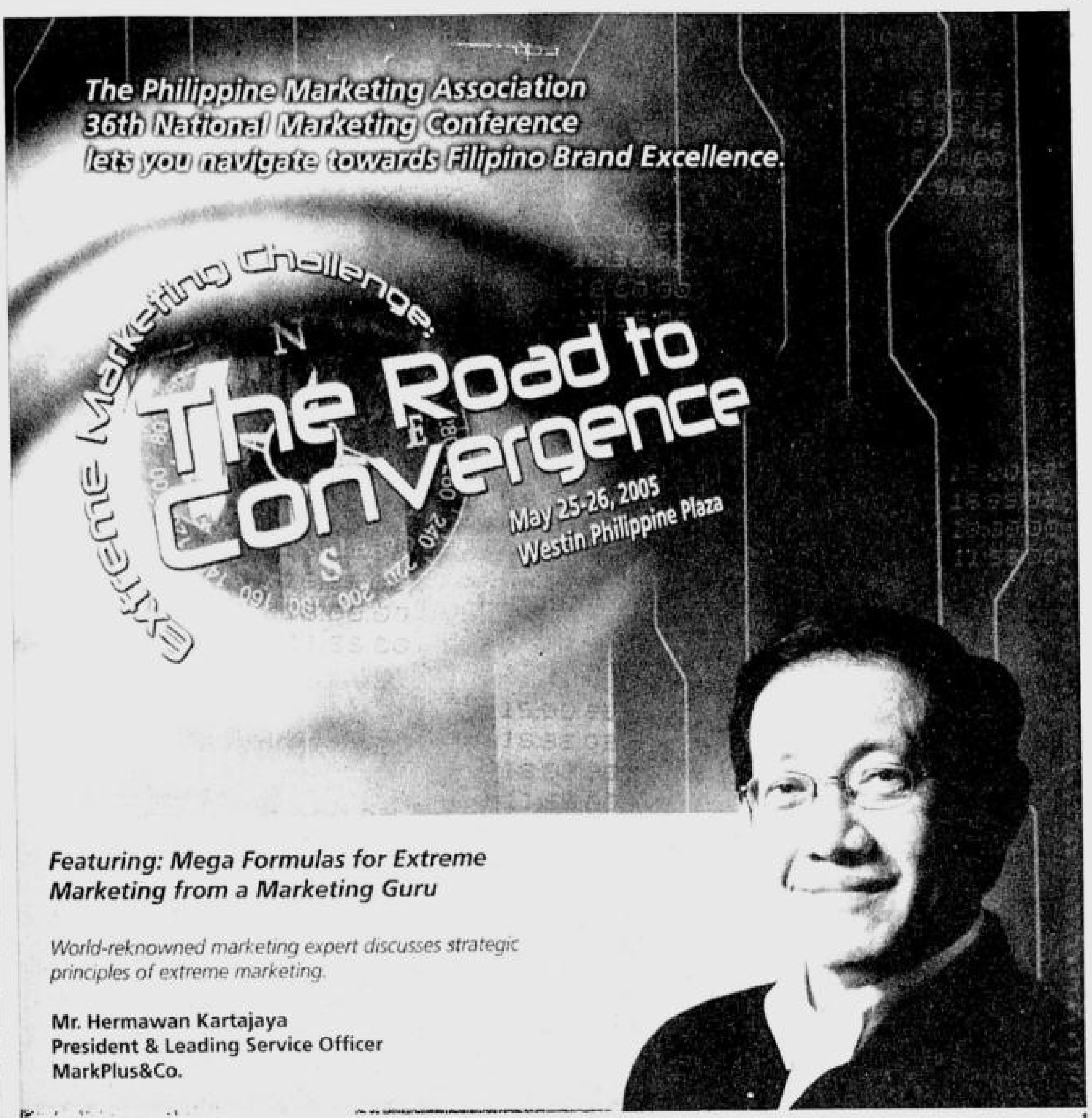

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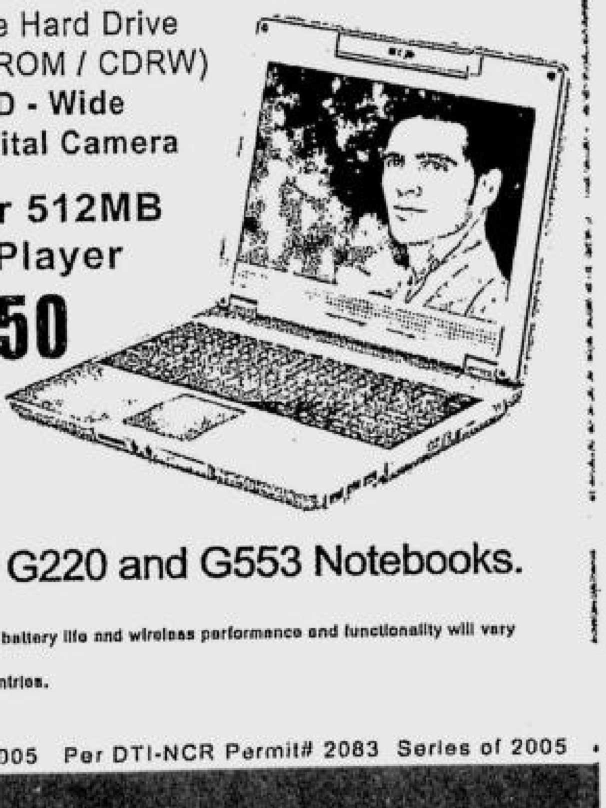

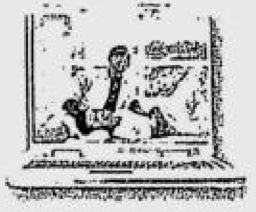

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Putting a stop to human traffic

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CORPORATE CITIZEN

EVERY day, at least 50 women and children fall victim to human traffickers who lure them out of the provinces with promises of high paying jobs in cities here and abroad.

Since many of the women and children are transported on passenger ships, like the Superferry of the Aboitiz Transport System Corp., officials of the shipping company decided to do something to break the chain.

That decision was made about four years ago, when the Visayan Forum (VF) Foundation Inc., a nongovernment organization leading efforts to put a stop to human trafficking, turned to shipping companies like Superferry.

"VF was asking shipping companies to help in the effort because, apparently, most of the victims travel by sea," says Gina Virtucio, Superferry corporate affairs manager. "And since we are a big shipping company, we thought it was our duty to help put a stop to it."

Superferry was the first shipping company to get involved in the fight against human trafficking.

CAROL Bellamy, Unicef director (left), holds up a campaign poster on child trafficking. Bellamy is joined by Gina Virtucio, Superferry corporate affairs manager (2nd from left), and Ma. Cecilia Flores-Oebanda of the Visayan Forum Foundation (extreme right) on the deck of a Superferry.

Prostitution

Human trafficking is closely linked to prostitution, forced labor, domestic work and child labor, according to the Visayan Forum.

A typical victim is a girl aged between 12 and 22. Most of these girls are willing to take risks because of the chance to earn good money. They brave the trip to the cities—most of them for the very first time—without having clear information about their destinations, the work they are hired to do and the character of their employers.

Cecilia Flores-Oebanda, Visayan Forum president, said the incidence of human trafficking has come to a point where it is considered to be one of the most lucrative and profitable underground businesses in the world today.

"It is profitable because victims can be resold so many times," Oebanda said during a recent forum. "This crime is considered the highest form of violation of human rights, especially children's rights."

Values formation

The first step Superferry took to help put a stop to trafficking was to train the Superferry personnel to spot women and children aboard their ships who could be unknowing victims of trafficking.

The training has to come hand in hand with values formation so that Superferry employees will not be tempted to take part in the lucrative trade.

It has been reported that some of the ships' crew members are said to get a handsome commission from recruiters in exchange for turning a blind eye to the plight of victims.

"We engage the people in our training to be part of the solution, not the problem," Virtucio said. "We tell them that they should not tolerate child trafficking because that child could be their own, and the woman could be their loved one."

Taking care of victims

Information dissemination is not limited to Superferry personnel. Posters and other information materials are displayed prominently for passengers to be aware of possible victims in their midst.

After strengthening its partnership with the Visayan Forum, Superferry reached out to government agencies, such as the Philippine National Police, the Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine Ports Authority, so that suspected traffickers would be apprehended and the victims taken care of.

The cooperation between the Visayan Forum, Superferry and the government units has so far helped close to 4,500 victims and potential victims in the North Harbor alone. About nine cases on behalf of 31 victims have been filed.

VIRTUCIO greets Dr. Nicolas Alipui, Unicef's Manila representative, prior to the forum held onboard a Superferry vessel docked at Manila's North Harbor.

Halfway house

It also earned for the group an invitation in 2003 to the global conference on child trafficking organized by the International Labor Organization.

The group's program was cited as one of the world's best examples of collaboration between the private sector, NGO, and the government in the fight against trafficking—a problem that exists across the globe.

The tripartite partnership has also called the attention of Unicef, one of the funding agencies behind Visayan Forum.

Next step

Virtucio said that the next step after controlling the physical movement of victims of human trafficking was to file cases against the recruiters. The authorities would then go to the community level to warn residents against illegal recruiters.

"We have to go past the stage of trying to stop the movement of victims," she said. "Now, we are going to the community because sometimes, it is the parents themselves who push their children to go with the recruiters to the city. With training, we hope that the parents will have second thoughts about sending their children to Manila or anywhere else."

The fight against human trafficking is just one of the causes that Superferry espouses. It is also heavily involved in efforts to improve the education system, alleviate poverty and protect the environment.

"We want to be more than just a company that brings people from point A to point B," Virtusio said. "We want to be a community that brings them to point C, which is a better community."

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BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	26.5	27	26	27	133,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	50.5	49.5	50	547,000
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	1,070
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.75	0.75	2,460,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	46	47	46	47	5,700
International Exch. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	25,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	32.5	31.5	32	563,100
Philippine National Bank	31	31	30	30.5	82,600
Security Bank Corp.	28	28	28	28	33,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	32,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	15,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2520	2535	2520	2535	1,340
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	440,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	150	150	150	150	3,500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1690	1690	1690	1690	720
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.25	18,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.1	1.1	4,039,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	855	855	845	845	18,970
Ipeople Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	220,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.049	0.045	0.049	2,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	13,200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	90,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	914,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	25,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1385	1395	1380	1395	98,070
Ivantage Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.69	630,000
Philweb Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.018	0.02	133,500,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	13,200
Manila Electric Co. B	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.5	192,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	8,232,000
Petron Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	688,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	322,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	29,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	952,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.72	0.73	0.7	0.7	2,800,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	11,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.4	87,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	28.5	28	28	37,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57	57.5	3,744,100
San Miguel Corp. B	82.5	82.5	82	82.5	103,900
Universal Robina Corp.	12	12	12	12	10,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	510,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	21,000,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.4	6.9	6.9	18,339,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.54	720,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	298,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.042	3,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	135,000
APC Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	15,000,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	21,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	9,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	22,800
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.19	18,240,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.04	1.04	4,241,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,130,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.235	0.24	1,570,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	670,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	3.05	2.9	3	2,840,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0525	0.0525	0.049	0.05	3,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	75,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	9.2	9.2	9	9	783,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49	49	48	48	447,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.0925	0.09	0.0925	2,000,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	210,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	1,038,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	23,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	4,837,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	700,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.43	9,610,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	30,000
SM Investments Corp.	248	250	246	250	1,265,410
South China Resources Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	60,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	140,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.245	0.245	118,970,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.26	1,010,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	521,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	8	8.1	8	8.1	4,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.52	1.52	65,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	1,483,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.99	0.99	360,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.62	1.64	1.56	1.6	2,310,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	2,500,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14.75	15.25	14.75	15.25	6,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.6	12,979,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	10,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.95	0.96	3,530,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	2,150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,050,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	3,480,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.4	11,210,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	610,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.8	416,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	310,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.3	5,450,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	52,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	125,000
Benguet Corp. B	27	27	27	27	1,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	9,420,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.33	4,970,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	194,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.021	0.022	146,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	37,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.04	1.04	1	1	1,576,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.3	1.3	1.22	1.26	3,546,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	34	37	33.5	35.5	934,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	150,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	92,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	22,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	20,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	250,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	109,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.19	11,750,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	40,000

CURRENCIES

April 14, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.773994	1.000000	54.0530
Japan	Yen	0.007211	0.009317	0.5036
United Kingdom	Pound	1.466409	1.894600	102.4088
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.099244	0.128223	6.9308
Switzerland	Franc	0.645372	0.833820	45.0705
Canada	Dollar	0.625096	0.807624	43.6545
Singapore	Dollar	0.470943	0.608458	32.8890
Australia	Dollar	0.603034	0.779120	42.1138
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.053143	2.652661	143.3843
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.206399	0.266667	14.4142
Brunei	Dollar	0.469514	0.606612	32.7892
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000106	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019600	0.025323	1.3688
UAE	Dirham	0.210742	0.272279	14.7175
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.292000	69.8365
Argentina	Peso	0.268748	0.347222	18.7684
Brazil	Real	0.303170	0.391696	21.1723
Denmark	Kroner	0.134180	0.173361	9.3707
India	Rupee	0.017732	0.022910	1.2384
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.203710	0.263193	14.2264
Mexico	New Peso	0.069985	0.090420	4.8875
New Zealand	Dollar	0.560459	0.724113	39.1405
Norway	Kroner	0.121600	0.157107	8.4921
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013037	0.016844	0.9105
South Africa	Rand	0.126560	0.163516	8.8385
Korea	Won	0.000765	0.000989	0.0535
Sweden	Kroner	0.109211	0.141101	7.6269
Syria	Pound	0.014910	0.019264	1.0413
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024630	0.031822	1.7201
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000361	0.000466	0.0252

Shares close 1.52% . . .

From page B5

The Senate late Wednesday approved a version of a VAT bill that keeps the VAT at 10 percent, rather than raise it to 12 percent, and instead increases the corporate income tax rate to 35 percent from 32 percent.

The Senate bill also removes the VAT exemptions of some sectors, dealers said, warning that investors are wary that the Senate version may cut companies' profitability and discourage new investment.

The Senate version must still be reconciled with a version passed by the lower House of Representatives in a bicameral session later this month. *AFP*

MARKETING CONVERGENCE

PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

presents

THE POWER OF BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR BETTER REVENUES AND PROFITS

DATES : April 27, 28, 29, 2005
TIME : 1PM - 6PM
VENUE : Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati

DESCRIPTION : This learning opportunity creates the advantage of Business Entrepreneurial Marketing as a strategic and competitive paradigm in your company's success. It aims to establish a creative approach towards managing the company resources as a business entrepreneur - where every element is well planned and utilized towards bottomline productivity.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS : A must attend seminar for any marketing and sales professional who aims to be more productive and cost effective! Others who can benefit includes brand, corporate communications, advertising, business development, managing directors and senior officers of the organization and SMEs/ business owners who would like to adopt entrepreneurial marketing

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES : At the end of the seminar, participants would carry a better understanding and assimilation of an "entrepreneurial" spirit in the conduct of their tasks and marketing/sales goals - meeting both efficiency and effectiveness aspects of performance.

METHODOLOGY : lectures, exercises, cases and in-class activities to ensure the dynamics of learning as presented towards the changing business environment. Resources speakers are respected specialists in their field and have been sought-after entrepreneurial consultants who would be sharing their expertise and experience on the various subject matters of the seminar.

SEMINAR PROGRAM

DAY 1 : April 27, 2005 (Wednesday)

Introductory Session : 1pm - 1:30pm
Business Entrepreneurship And Your Company : Power To Succeed
Session Chair : **Mr. Ricardo de Vera,** *Seminar Director*
AGORA Marketing Awards Head -Entrepreneurship
Business Trainor/Consultant - PTTC/DTI

Session 1 : 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Critical Lessons From Entreprenuers In Business
Speaker : **Mr. Ricardo de Vera**
AGORA Marketing Awards Head -Entrepreneurship
Business Trainor/Consultant - PTTC/DTI

Session 2 : 3:45pm - 5:30pm
The Changing Horizon Of Business Marketing/ Sales What Is Happening/Why Are Traditions-Practices Failing
Speaker : **Mr. Angelito Ovenson**
President, Cendant Phils.

BRIEFING OF FINAL PROJECT : 5.45pm - 6pm

DAY 2 : April 28, 2005 (Thursday)

Link-Up Session : 1pm - 1:30pm

Session 3 : 1.30pm - 3:30pm
Understanding The Tool Of Business Entrepreneurship : The Diagnostic Business Process System (Marketing/Sales)
Speaker : **Mr. Raul Rodriquez**
Senior Consultant

Session 4 : 3:45pm - 5:30pm
The Framework And Discipline Of Managing The Marketing And Sales For Improved Bottomlines
Speaker : **Mr. Melchor Flores**
President, KISS and Harry's

BRAINSTORMING : 5:30pm - 6pm

DAY 3 April 29, 2--5 (Friday)

Link-Up Session : 1pm - 1:30pm

Session 5 : 1:30pm - 3:30pm
An Integrated Marketing/Sales IT For The Business Entrepreneur In a convergent market
Speaker : **Mr. Michael Limueco**
IT Practicioner/Specialist
Business Associate Trainor

PREPARATION/PRESENTATION OF CASES : 3:45pm - 5:30pm

For inquiries, please call up the
Philippine Marketing Association Secretariat
c/o Ms. Lydia Mariñas
Tel. Nos. 634-5722; 634-4890; 636-1451
E-mail: lydiamm@edsamail.com.ph

HOME FOR THE STROKE CHAMPIONS

3S (Stroke Survivors' Support Foundation) now has an office, courtesy of Philippine Heart Center and supported by Therapharma Inc. Present during the inauguration were (from left) lawyer Ed Tolentino, president, 3S Foundation; James Dio, general manager of Therapharma Inc; Dr. Abdias Aquino, president, Stroke Society of the Philippines; Dr. Jim Nibungco, vice president, 3S Foundation; Dr. Joven Cuanang, medical director, St. Luke's Hospital and Medical Center and Dr. Ludgerio Torres, medical director of the Philippine Heart Center. 3S Foundation is a support group that aims to educate stroke patients, teach them how they can help themselves, and how their families can take care of them adequately and effectively. For more information about the foundation's activities and programs, interested parties may log on to www.3sfoundation.org.ph.

Holcim Philippines sponsors international business seminar

THE EDUCATION for Youth Enterprise (EYE) Foundation Inc, in partnership with Holcim Philippines Inc (formerly Union Cement), is set to conduct the Wiwag Business Management Simulation Training Program in selected state colleges and universities in the country this April.

Wiwag is a 5-day intensive training program in business management based on computer-assisted business simulation game. It is designed to give the participants a holistic view of the different departments in a business organization and how each contributes to the overall success of its enterprise. It is also geared towards enhancing business and entrepreneur education in the country.

The Wiwag module was developed by the Ernst Schmidheiny Foundation in cooperation with the Institute for Economic Education of the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland. It works by interlinking basic knowledge of economics and business management in a simulated business environment. It gives the participants insight into the development process of a business by enhancing their understanding of key departments such as finance, marketing, human resources and production and how they are dynamically interrelated.

The management game begins by dividing the participants into small teams and tasking each team to form a mock medium-sized business. They are then asked to develop the company from scratch, come up with specific products within a specific market. From there the participants take their company through a whole set of market conditions simulating a cycle of boom and bust, financial fluctuation and human resources issues and the like.

Participating state colleges and universities are Mindanao State University in Iligan City, Don Mariano Polytechnic in Cagayan de Oro, Bulacan State University, Southeastern State University in Davao, and Don Mariano Marcos University in La Union. The Wiwag program officially began April 11 to 15 in a series of "Training the Trainors" sessions. It will be formally launched today through a memorandum of agreement signing between the program proponents. The first wave of Wiwag training sessions will be simultaneously conducted from April 18 to 22 in three of the participating universities, namely Mindanao State University, Don Mariano Polytechnic and Bulacan State University. The second wave is then slated the following week from April 25 to 29 at Southeastern State University and Don Mariano Marcos University.

This Wiwag Business Management Simulation Training Program is made possible through the support of the EYE Foundation's corporate partners. They are, namely, Mirant Philippines, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Nestlé Philippines, United Coconut Planters Bank-CIFF Foundation, Petron Foundation Inc, Philippine Business for Social progress, Phinma, Punla Tao, Development Bank of the Philippines, Roxas Gargollo Foundation, Sarmiento Foundation Inc, SPI Foundation, ABS-CBN Bayan, Refracore Corp and IMC International Management Consulting.

The Columns tops off Tower 2 with ceremony, dinner

ON APRIL 15, a festive celebration including a sit-down dinner marks the ceremonial topping-off of the second tower of The Columns, Ayala Avenue, the noted Makati residential development from Community Innovations Inc (CII), an Ayala company.

The rapid rise of the three-tower condominium at the corner of Ayala and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues will reach another milestone with the topping-off ceremony of Tower 2. Participants in the ceremony will don hard hats and take up shovels and each place a shovel of concrete into a wheelbarrow. The concrete will then be taken by elevator to the top of Tower 2 and poured there to symbolically complete Tower 2's construction.

Construction broke ground for The Columns, Ayala Avenue in March 2003. Tower 2's topping-off marks the completion of structural construction at the second of The Columns' three towers. Tower 3 has already reached the 10th floor, while turnover of the Tower 1 units is scheduled for mid-2006.

The topping-off ceremony will be followed by a sit-down dinner at 7th level of Tower 2. Guests will be treated to remarks from CII regarding milestones in The Columns' history and a look forward to the completion of all three towers and handover of the units. After dinner, guests and interested parties may make their way around the site to view the units.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue is the first urban high-rise from CII, designed to appeal to young urban achievers who work in the Makati central business district. Its three 30-story towers offer a mix of studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units and resort-level amenities to create a contemporary yet neighborly home in Metro Manila's most cosmopolitan enclave. Located at the doorstep of world-class business, entertainment, and shopping opportunities, bearing the reliability of CII's Ayala Land pedigree and the cachet of an Ayala Avenue address, The Columns offers young professionals the life they've always imagined.

Interested? Call 888-0000, e-mail cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.thecolumns.com.ph. Model units are available for viewing at the 3rd floor of Glorietta 3, Ayala Center. On-site units are available for viewing at the 8th level of Tower One of The Columns, Ayala Avenue located along Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday to Sunday.

Bits & Clips

Seminar on voice as asset

PROFESSIONAL speaker, classical singer and voice therapy and rehabilitation consultant Joscephine Gomez will present Voice as Asset-a seminar-workshop designed to transform one's voice into an asset in one's business or profession-on April 16 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., from April 18 to 20 from 6 to 9 p.m, and May 1, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Re-Vita Conference Room, 2nd floor, Alcco Building, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan. She will speak on "Your voice: an asset or a liability?", "Stress management and vocal health", "Optimal nutrition for vocal fitness", "Remedies for and prevention of voice problems (including chronic hoarseness, occasional loss of voice, and cases of unpleasant and unclear voice) and "Physical exercises for a beautiful voice". For details, call The Corporate Mind at 687-7898 or 0919-8763770.

AU commencement exercises

ARAULLO University, among the Philippines' foremost educational institutions, will be holding commencement exercises this weekend with leaders of the Senate and Judiciary as special guests and speakers. Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Senate Majority Leader, shall be commencement speaker for the AU College Graduation on Saturday, April 16, 3 p.m. This will be held at the AU Gymnasium in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. On April 17, AU's Professional Schools Graduation will be held with Retired Supreme Court Justice Josue N. Bellosillo as commencement speaker. The event will be held at 5 p.m. at the Acropolis North Water Camp & Country Club, Cabanatuan City. Araullo University is part of the Phinma Education Network. Commencement exercises will be led by AU chair Ramon del Rosario Jr and president Chito Salazar PhD.

Alumni homecoming

THE CAMARINES Sur National High School in Naga City will hold its grand alumni homecoming on April 16 at the school's pavilion. Dubbed "With One More Look at You", the reunion shall be hosted by the silver jubilarian batch 80. For details, call lawyer Goody Guzman at 0927-6181241, Lyd Perez-Lomibao at 054-4746160 or Ding Diaz at 0917-5340914, or e-mail dingdiaz@hotmail.com.

Workshop in Historiography

THE BAGONG Kasaysayan-Bahay Saliksikan sa Kasaysayan (Bakas) and the International Studies Department of Miriam College invite you to the 3rd National Seminar-Workshop on Historiography and the Social Sciences. This activity is titled "Ang mga Etnolingguwistikong Grupo sa Pag-Aaral ng Etnisidad". It will be held from April 18 to 20 at AVR A&B, Miriam College. This seminar-workshop aims to provide teachers a holistic understanding of recent developments in Philippine social sciences, particularly on issues concerning Philippine history, society and culture and on new technologies and methods of teaching. Full details of the event can be viewed at www.geocities.com/dr_zsalazar/activities, or call 927-2396 or 0919-5836340.

Gateway Mall's JP2 exhibit

GATEWAY Mall joins the Catholic community in mourning the passing away of the world's most revered religious leader Pope John Paul II through a 2-week exhibit that commemorates the Pope's Philippine visit in 1995. The exhibit runs until April 16 and features a retrospective of Pope John Paul The Great memorabilia. Photos taken during his visits to the Philippines in 1981 and during the World Youth Day will be on display. The special Pope tribute highlights the Papal chair that was specially made for the Pontiff during his 1995 Manila visit. The exhibit can be viewed at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Quezon City.

Summer cookouts, treats

PUT A little sizzle in your summer feasts with grilled recipes from the Best Barbecue at the Julius Maggi Kitchen cooking demo. April's featured chef shares essential grilling secrets to achieve the perfect barbecue. Learn to prepare creative yet economical treats during the Quick Easy Affordable Desserts made more delectable with Carnation Condensada. These timely and free cooking demos will be held on April 16, 19, 21 and 23 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, ground floor of the Nestle Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati. Call 723-7679 or 726-1016. Another option is the Dimsum and Paos 2 paying cooking class to be held on April 30, 2 to 5 p.m. for only P350 per head.

A breath of relief

ACCORDING to Jac Vidgen, visiting Australian practitioner of the Buteyko Breathing Technique, a lot of health problems may be avoided if people knew how to breathe properly. Vidgen has been helping Filipinos breathe better for several years. The Buteyko method was devised to address this problem. This revolutionary approach was first developed by Russian medical scientist Dr. KP Buteyko in 1952. Vidgen will give workshops (each 5 x 2 hour sessions) at the Phildhrra Partnership Center April 16, 17, 18, 24 and May 1; and at the In Touch Community Services: April 20, 21, 22, 25 and 30. Lectures and workshops will also be given in Alabang and Antipolo. Private classes may be arranged. Call Milen at 647- 7908, or Jac Vidgen at 0917-9512527. For more details and the full line-up of activities, visit http://www.buteykoasia.com.

Mr and Ms Kids World 2005 registration

REGISTRATION for the search for Mr and Ms Kids World 2005 is ongoing until April 30. The contest is open to kids aged 4 to 7 years old. Early participants will receive gift packs from the organizer. The contest will be held at the "It's A Kids World Fair" from May 6 to 8 at the SM Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, along with other summer activities and contests, such as an on-the-spot painting, on-the-spot essay, group dance contest, and taekwondo competition. Other exciting activities are daily magic shows, daily arts and craft, kids at play, kiddie wellness, kiddie chef, free voice-over workshop demo, a fashion show, parenting seminar, product exhibits, and freebies and raffles and other interactive activities where the kids can have the chance to explore and learn in a fun and educational atmosphere. Those interested can call The Next Step Events at 813-0148, 893-9729, 0920-5467602, or e-mail nextstep@eastern.com.ph.

Natural Therapeutics

THE MOTHER Earth Fair offers natural therapeutics and healthcare. It features alternative healing methods such as aromatherapy, reiki and pranic healing, basic reflexology, oriental healing processes such as chakra alignment, color therapy and crystal healing. Either for relaxation, stress relief or meditative purposes, these healing techniques could be a naturally joyful treat for the whole family. Furthermore, these healing methods will be put on the spotlight as the event features a product demonstration on both oriental and occidental therapeutics. The event will be on April 16 and 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more details, call Philtrade Exhibits at 825-0804 or 825-3482.

UPIS '85 celebrates

ALL GRADUATES of UP Integrated School (UPIS) Batch '85 have something to celebrate about this April 16. Set to relive the festive 80s, UPIS Batch '85 will hold its grand alumni homecoming and celebration of its 20th anniversary on April 16. A fun-filled family day and sports fest with the batchmates' families are expected to kick off at 7 a.m. to last until 12 noon at the Meralco Sports Complex in Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City. An exciting retro party with an evening of song, dance and great food awaits UPIS Batch '85. The fun starts at 6 p.m. at the UPIS Multi-Purpose Hall, Katipunan Road, Quezon City. For more details, call Amihan Bonifacio-Ramolete at 929-0895 or 0918-9032040; Marilyn Pandela-Desamito at 929-7980, or text/call the UPIS secretariat at 0920-9505770, 0921-8015908, or 0917-3909244.

'Easy English' courses

CORBAN Learning Center is opening a new batch of "Easy English" courses held every Saturday and/or Sunday starting April 16 and 17. The Sunday course will focus on English grammar, pronunciation and conversation, while the Saturday course includes English grammar, pronunciation, business writing and presentations. Both will be from 2 to 5 p.m. Corban regularly conducts English and writing seminars for leading corporations. Its current clientele include those within the top 1,000 corporations of the Philippines. Interested parties can call 842-6665, 809-3050, or 0917-6297718.

Jay R: 'Party Revolution'

WITH the summer fever raging on, it is now time for the country's "R&B Prince" Jay R, to take on the heat. He will topbill an exciting show titled "Party Revolution". Presented by Liveraide and My Marvel Taheebo, the event will be held on April 18 at the Metro Bar in Quezon City. The R&B Prince will present a high-energy performance of entirely new music. Joining Jay R in the show are rap artist Jimmy Muna, Kids at Work and Freshmix. Front act will be new band Annapolis Xperiment, a new alternative rock/pop group of five mal members. In cooperation with Blazin 105.9, "Party Revolution" is the initial production of EV Entertainment Inc. It is also made possible by Aqua Soft Mineral Water and Tammy's Burgers. Show starts at 9 p.m. For more inquiries, call 952-7404 or 435-8701.

Seminars on spirituality, positive thinking

A FREE seminar-workshop on everyday spirituality will be held on April 16, 4 to 6 p.m. For more inquiries, call 922-9231 or 414-9421. A weekend retreat on positive thinking and meditation will also be conducted on April 16 and 17. For more details, call 890-7960 or (046) 413-2128.

A Red Cross Milestone

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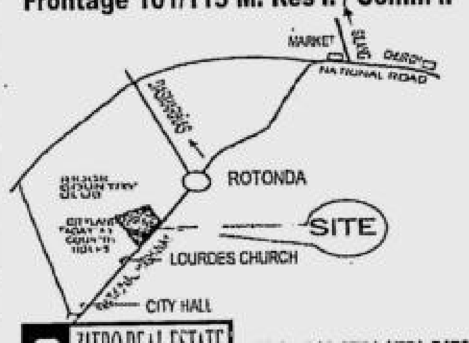

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Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan

1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnerships/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-094	500,000 pcs. ATM Plastic Cards (E.A.S.Y. Cards) "HICO" (High Coercivity)	P 2,226,000.00	LBP Funds
2005-100	9,500 bdls. BIR Tax Payment Deposit Slip	2,375,000.00	LBP Funds
	22,666 bdls. Cash Deposit Slip	660,500.00	
	3,676 sets Labelled Divider for Commercial Loan	127,185.00	
	4,625 bdls. Peso Bill Strap	161,875.00	
	1,730 bdls. Mini Clearing Envelope	648,750.00	
	272 bxs. Mailing Envelope with logo, Legal Size	350,000.00	
	5,480 bdls. CB Clearing Envelope	634,000.00	
	2,932 bxs. Mailing Envelope with logo	743,000.00	
	1,805 bdls. Savings Signature Card with Logo	242,000.00	
	1,668 rms. Bond Paper with logo, Letterhead	315,000.00	
2005-108	1 lot Supply of supervision, labor, materials, tools, chemicals and equipment for the preventive maintenance of AC System and components at various LANDBANK Metro Manila Branches for two (2) years effective upon signing of a formal Service/Maintenance Contract	4,100,000.00	LBP Funds
2005-109	1 lot Three (3) Years Janitorial and Sanitation Services for LANDBANK Plaza and other Satellite Offices for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008.	43,860,000.00	LBP Funds

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on **May 11, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.** and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for ITB Nos. 2005-094, 2005-100 and 2005-108 and P5,000.00 for ITB No. 2005-109.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **April 28 and 29, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI – April 15 & 22, 2005)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Date : April 14, 2005
Contract No. Sp04.PBIP.Vw-0031

1. Project Name : **Supply and Delivery of Transmission Line and Substation Materials and Equipment, and Supply and Delivery Including Installation, Test and Commissioning of Submarine Power Cable and Accessories for the Panay to Boracay Interconnection Project**
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of Supply and Delivery of Transmission Line and Substation Materials and Equipment, and Supply and Delivery Including Installation, and Commissioning of Submarine Power Cable and Accessories for the Panay to Boracay Interconnection Project.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is **P149,387,653.00** from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino and Foreign manufacturers, suppliers/dealers, distributors, or firms who have the legal, technical, and financial requisites of the contract to be bid.
5. Foreign bidders who wish to participate in the bidding must prove that their respective countries of origin grant reciprocal rights to Filipino citizens with respect to procurement of goods by its government, in compliance with R.A. No. 5183.
6. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria. Only eligible bidders shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the offer to the contract under bidding, subject to postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
7. Eligibility & Bid Documents will be available for issuance on April 30, 2005 at the **Bids and Contracts Management Department, National Transmission Corporation,** Ground Floor, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, with Telephone Nos.: 981-2212, 981-2213, 981-4652; and Telefax No.: 921-23-08, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of P30,000.00.
8. Deadline for submission of sealed, duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms, Statements, and Bid Proposals (Technical and Price) shall be on or before June 30, 2005, 9:30 A.M. at W. dela Paz Conference Room, Training Center, Power Center Compound, National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.
9. If the date is a non-working day or declared a non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day. Late submission shall not be accepted.
10. Pre-bid conference shall be held on June 8, 2005, 9:30 A.M. at W. dela Paz Conference Room, Training Center, Power Center Compound, National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.
11. In order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, manufacturers, suppliers/dealers, distributors, or firms not yet included in the TransCo's List of Registered Suppliers/ Contractors who wish to participate in the bidding are requested to register with the Bids and Contracts Management Department and submit the following requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued upon approval.
    - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
    - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
    - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
    - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation;
    - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;

    For foreign bidders, the required documents applicable to entities doing business in the Philippines shall be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by respective countries, which documents shall be duly acknowledged or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate thereat.

    Note : Prospective bidders may also submit the above requirements together with their Eligibility Forms and Documents during the deadline for the submission of Eligibility requirements and Bid Proposals (Technical and Price).
12. TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, or to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
13. The Contract to be Bid shall be governed by the Provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
14. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO**
VP-Luzon Operations & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – April 15, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Atlas Consol. Mining Dev. Corp. Stock Cert #A0137349, A0166261, A0196913, A0198913, A0238646 under Anthony & Elizabeth Reedyk were declared lost w/ total 498 shares. If no contest received w/ in 1 yr. new cert. will be issued. PDI-April 1,9,15, 2005

Notice is given that Wack Wack Golf & Country Club Stock Cert. No. 502 issued to Mercedes S. Tuazon have been lost. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued. (PDI-April 15, 22, 29, 2005)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FIRST FARMERS HOLDINGS CORPORATION (FFHC) STOCK CERTIFICATE NO. 743 COVERING 12.093 SHARES OF MANUEL DEL ROSARIO, SR. AND STOCK CERTIFICATE NO. 1739 COVERING 119.572 SHARES OF LETICIA DEL ROSARIO WERE DECLARED LOST. IF NO CONTEST RECIEVED WITHIN 1 MONTH, NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED. (PDI APRIL 1,8,15, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late TERESA M. ANDRADE has been extrajudicially settled between her heirs as per Doc. No. 162; Page 34; Book No. XX11; Series of 2004 before Atty. Esperanza C. Doroja, Notary Public of Manila.
PDI-April 15,18 & 25,2005

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ANTONIO B. ECHEVARRIA, covering properties with titles TCT No. RT-403057 (173108) located in Quezon City, and TCT No. T-9801 located in Tagbilaran, Bohol was extrajudicially settled by the surviving heirs, as recorded in the notarial registry of Atty. Mirasol Dychingco under Doc. No. 186, Page No. 19, Book No. 3, Series of 2005.
(PDI-April 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

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BUKIDNON FORESTS INCORPORATED

(A Subsidiary of the Natural Resources Development Corporation
Assisted by the New Zealand Government
BFI Compound, Sumpong, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO. 009

Bukidnon Forests Incorporated (BFI) invites interested contractors to apply for Eligibility and if Subsequently found eligible, to bid for various projects;

NAME OF PROJECT : HARVESTING OPERATIONS – YARDING & SKIDDING;– LOADING, SEGREGATION AND FILING OF BENGUET PINE LOGS
LOCATION/END USER : BFI OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT Tigbawan, Incalbog, Can-ayan, Malaybalay City
SOURCE OF FUND : BFI REVENUES
APPROVED BUDGET COST : P5,055,000.00
PROJECT DESCRIPTION : Contract of Services – Logging Equipment
SCOPE OF WORK : 10,000 cu.m. Yarding & Skidding – ABC P1,800,000.00
21,000 cu.m. Loading – ABC P2,100,000.00
21,000 cu.m. Segregation & Filing – ABC P1,155,000.00

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT	OWNED	LEASED	TOTAL
Loader	3	2	5
Wrecker	3	2	5

Pre Bid Conference & Site Inspection April 22, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
Issuance of Eligibility & Bid Document April 22, 2005
Dropping of Bids May 5, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.
Opening of Bids May 5, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.
BFI Training Center, BFI Cmpd., Sumpong, Malaybalay City

Qualified bidder/suppliers may obtain bid documents from the BAC Secretariat upon payment of non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 per set. For more information, please inquire at the BFI Office, Sumpong, Malaybalay City.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Documents, Procedures and Purchase Order shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 providing rules and regulation governing goods and infrastructure projects.

The BFI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to BFI.

(Sgd.) DENNIS N. RAMIREZ
Research & Support Services Manager
BAC Chairman

(PDI – April 15 & 22, 2005)

BMHI

BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BCDA Management & Holdings, Incorporated (BMHI) invites all interested SUPPLIERS, MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS to bid for the SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION of the following: Ten (10) Sets of **Desktop Computer**; Three (3) sets of **Laptop Computer**; One (1) set of **Computer Server**; Three (3) Units of **CD Writer**; Ten (10) Units of **Flat Bed Scanner**; Three (3) Units of **Computer Printer**; Ten (10) Units of **Uninterruptible Power Supply**; and One (1) Unit of **Multimedia Projector**. The Approved Budget for the project is *ONE MILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY TWO THOUSAND PESOS & 00/100 (Php1,992,000.00).*

The Bid Documents and Terms of Reference will be available for issuance at the *Small Conference Room, Main Lobby, BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila,* before **5:00 PM** from April 25 to May 2, 2005; upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) addressed to the Chairperson of the BMHI Procurement, Bids and Awards Committee (BMHI-PBAC); and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *ONE THOUSAND PESOS (Php1,000.00).* The LOI should state the *Company's Name, Address* and *Contact Person* directly employed by the company.

For queries, clarifications and additional information, please call **Mr. Bryan S. Pabustan** of the BMHI-PBAC Technical Working Group at **816-6666 local 210.**

GLORIA GEORGINA DJ. JOTA
BMHI-PBAC Chairperson

(PDI--April 15, 2005)

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

BFAD ADVISORY

No. 01 s. 2005

12 April 2005

Today, the Bureau of Food and Drug has asked Pfizer, Inc. to voluntarily withdraw from the Philippine market the drugs: Valdecoxib (Bextra) and its injectable prodrug Parecoxib (Dynastat). Bextra and Dynastat posed a risk of rare but life-threatening skin reactions like Erythema Multiformae, Stevens Johnson's Syndrome (SJS) and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN). SJS and TEN have mortality rate of up to 50%. The reported rates of such reactions with some reported fatalities have been found to be greater in Valdecoxib compared to other COX-2 inhibitors. The occurrence of such serious reactions cannot be predicted. The use of Valdecoxib/Parecoxib has not shown advantage over other available pain relievers in the local market.

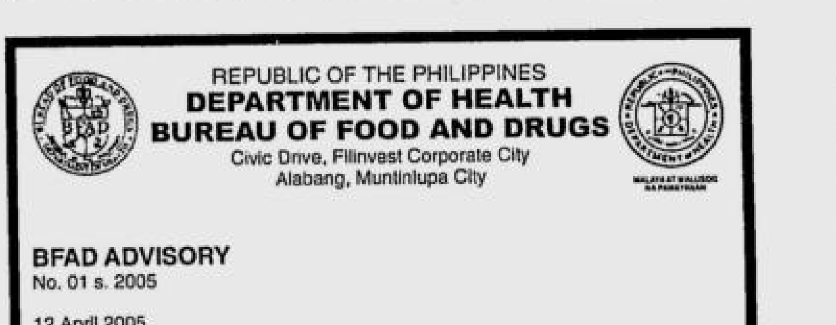
Also to be instituted by BFAD:

1. Blackboxed warnings regarding heart problems and stomach bleeding on all prescription nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)
2. Product labels for over-the-counter (OTC) nonprescription drugs, except aspirin, to give additional information about side effects and additional advice to consumers
3. Labelling/Posters for over-the-counter NSAIDs warnings about potential adverse skin reactions

The BFAD would like to emphasize that patients seek their doctor's advice for other alternative and short-term use of OTC NSAIDs.

(Sgd.) **PROF. LETICIA BARBARA B. GUTIERREZ, MS**
Director

(PDI--April 15, 2005)



PMAP, CHINATRUST INK YEAR-ROUND PARTNERSHIP

Chinatrust and the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) signed a Memorandum of Agreement last 17 March 2005 at the Chinatrust offices in Makati City for a year-round partnership concerning various PMAP endeavors and activities within the year including its Annual Conference in September. Photo shows (l-r) Chinatrust FVP Jo Natividad, PMAP Executive Director Gerry Plana, FPM, Chinatrust EVP/Retail Banking Head Anthony Robles, Chinatrust President Joey A. Bermudez, PMAP Pres. Lina Aseneta, FPM, PMAP Treasurer Jimmy Isidro, FPM and PMAP Corporate Secretary Bobbie Co-Laguitao, FPM.

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RA 9048
14 June 2001
RA form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Baguio City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that JUANITO H. NILLO has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from DANIEL JR. to JUANITO in the birth certificate of DANIEL NILLO JR. who was born on 04 April 1961 at Angeles, Pampanga and whose parents are Daniel Nillo and Lourdes Hipolito.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than April 30, 2005.

(Sgd.) SYLVIA R. LAUDENCIA
City Civil Registrar

(PDI – April 8 & 15, 2005)

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Manila Liaison Office
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Tel./FAX: 63 (2) 921-3863
63 (2) 921-7707
E-mail: pcc-mla@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Package #	Particulars	Approved Budget
I.	Semen Processing and Artificial Insemination Supplies	P1,999,018.75
II.	Veterinary Drugs and Supplies	645,504.50
III.	Laboratory/Chemical Supplies	905,001.80
IV.	Tires	420,400.00
	Total	P3,969,925.05

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 25-28, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	May 3, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
3. Opening of Bids (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	May 10, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
4. Bid Evaluation	May 10, 2005
5. Post-qualification	May 11-17, 2005
6. Notice of Award	30 days after Bid Evaluation

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of one hundred fifty pesos (P150) to the Philippine Carabao Center Cashier.

The Philippine Carabao Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **EULOGIO M. MONTEALTO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - April 15 & 16, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR).
Loan No.: Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI
Description of Works: Construction and Development of a. Linear Park along New Panaderos & Earnshaw, Manila

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contract for New Panaderos & Earnshaw Linear Park (Contract No. EPA-LPP-23).
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package	:	Construction and Development of a Linear Park
Contract No.	:	EPA-LPP-23
Area	:	1,633.82 sq.m.
Location	:	New Panaderos & Earnshaw, Manila
Contract Duration	:	180 calendar days
Project Description	:	Construction and development of a linear park / promenade which includes the following items of work: civil, electrical, plumbing, hardscape and softscape elements, among others.

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 11,500)	From 18 - 25 April	8 am – 5 pm	PRRC2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents	From 18 – 25 April	8 am – 5 pm		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
a. Pre-bid Conference	12 May	9am	PRRC (same address)	
b. Site Inspection	12 May	2pm	Earnshaw & New Panaderos, Manila (near Earnshaw Elementary School)	Right after Pre-bid Conference
Deadline for submission of Bids	25 May	10am	PRRC (same address)	Late bids (bids submitted after 10am) shall not be accepted
Opening of Bids	25 May	10:15am	PRRC (same address)	Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders

4. The City of Manila shall be the implementing agency of the Contract.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check / Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the "*Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers*" pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 and ADB Guidelines for the Procurement of Civil Works as standardized under the harmonized ADB-GOP Procurement of Works guidelines.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H. B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-3446, Fax No. 926-6449
Email Address: prrc@tri-isys.com

(PDI - Apr. 8 & 15, 2005)

The Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)
Industrial Relations (IR) Committee
invites you to

A Symposium on "Addressing the Effects of Varying Compressed Workweek Guidelines"

15 April 2005
1:00 - 5:00 pm
Dusit Hotel Nikko

Resource Speaker

Hon. Benedicto Bitonio
Undersecretary
Department of Labor and Employment

Reactors

Atty. Emerico O. De Guzman, FPM
Senior Partner, ACCRA Law Offices

Mr. Mario Mayo
President of Association of SEIPI Personnel Administrators (ASPA)

Ms. Ana Maria S. Bongato
Director of Human Resources, Convergys Phils. Service Corp..

The Dept. of Labor and Employment issued an advisory on the implementation of compressed workweek (CWW) schemes to guide employers and workers in the private sector who wish to adopt a mutually acceptable work schedule suitable to the needs of their respective establishments.

In this symposium,learn from Usec. Bitonio himself how this new scheme varies with that of the previous CWW guidelines released by DOLE. Understand the conditions required to adopt shortened workdays. Know the requirements when extending a normal 8-hour work day. Discover how this CWW affects the computation of the overtime pay, as well as vacation leaves. Ascertain if it still is based on an 8-hour per day work scheme.

Our first reactor, Atty. Rico de Guzman, will give you the legal perspectives of the new scheme; while our two other reactors, Mr. Jun Mayo and Ms. Penny Bongato will give their views on how the new scheme is applied in their respective industries (i.e., semicon and business process outsourcing groups).

For other details and for reservations, please contact:
PMAP (*pmap@pmap.org.ph*)
***Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis Fees:**

Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)
670 Lee St., Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, Philippines Tel. Nos. (632) 726-1532, -81 or -88
Fax No. (632) 726-1530

MAXICARE, PMAP SIGN 2005 PARTNERSHIP

Maxicare and the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) signed a Memorandum of Agreement last March 16 at the PMAP Center in Mandaluyong City for a year-round partnership concerning various PMAP endeavors and activities within the year including its Annual Conference in September. Photo shows (from left) PMAP Corporate Secretary Bobbie Co-Laguitao, FPM, Treasurer Jimmy M. Isidro, FPM, Vice-President Robert T. Poblete, President Lina A. Aseneta, FPM, President and CEO of Maxicare Sergio Naranjilla, Jr., Senior Vice-President – Marketing of Maxicare Jo Aguilar and Sales Manager Intermediaries of Maxicare Rodelle Uy. Looking on are (second row, l-r) Maxicare's AVP-Direct Sales Jonathan Gutierrez, PMAP Executive Director Gerardo A. Plana, FPM, IPMA-CP and Maxicare's Sales Manager-Renewal Business Christian Cristobal.

BMHI
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BCDA Management & Holdings, Inc. (BMHI) invites interested contractors to submit application for eligibility and if found eligible to bid subsequenly for the project stated below:

Contract Package Name and Location	Scope of Works	IAC Category and Classification	PCAB License Category	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)/Source of Funds	Project Duration
Construction of Pamayanang Diego Silang Commercial Complex	Construction of Commercial Complex facilities of steel, lumber & concrete materials combinations consisting of the following: Erection of Food & Basic Services Sections, Fish & Meat Sections, Dry Sections, Fruit & Vegetable Section & Men & Ladies Comfort Room. To include Site Development & Landscaping	At least medium "A" with an allowable range of contract cost of at least P5M to P25M	At least Category "B"	P6,500,000.00 BMHI Corporate Funds	120 Calendar days

Prospective contractors should have completed a similar contract for the above-mentioned project.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statement) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria set forth in the Instructions to Applicants for Eligibility and to Bid. Only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by BMHI to participate in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the ABC shall be evaluated based on the contractor's offer for the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to detailed evaluation. The lowest calculated responsive bidder shall undergo Post-qualification before the award of the Contract. Bid prices submitted higher than the ABC shall be rejected and returned outright

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance at the *Small Conference Room, Main Lobby BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center 31st Street Corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila* before 5:00 PM on April 15 – 28, 2005, upon submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) addressed to the BMHI Procurement Bids and Award Committee (BMHI-PBAC) Chairperson and payment of a non-refundable fee of **ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00)**. Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms shall be submitted not later than May 02, 2005, 5:00pm at the above-mentioned address.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the Project, you may get in touch with **Engr. Renato D. Zaparita of the BMHI - PBAC Technical Working Group** at tel. nos. **541-3160 or 816-6666** local 210

GLORIA GEORGINA DJ JOTA
BMHI - PBAC Chairperson

(PDI-- April 15, 2005)

BMHI
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BCDA Management & Holdings, Inc. (BMHI) invites interested contractors to submit application for eligibility, and if found eligible, to bid subsequently for the project stated below:

Contract Package Name and Location	Scope of Works	IAC Category and Classification	PCAB License Category	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)/Source of Funds	Project Duration
Construction of Pamayanang Diego Silang Multi Purpose Hall	Erection of Structural steel Multi Purpose Hall Constructed of Steel & Concrete material combination with reinforced concrete foundation	At least small "B" with an allowable range of contract cost of at least P3M above	At least Category "C" & "D"	P3,500,000.00 BMHI Corporate Funds	120 Calendar days

Prospective contractors should have completed a similar contract for the above-mentioned project.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statement) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria set forth in the Instructions to Applicants for Eligibility and to Bid. Only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by BMHI to participate in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the ABC shall be evaluated based on the contractor's offer for the Contract under bidding, and shall be subject to detailed evaluation. The lowest calculated responsive bidder shall undergo Post-qualification before the award of the Contract. Bid prices submitted higher than the ABC shall be rejected and returned outright

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance at the *Small Conference Room, Main Lobby BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center 31st Street Corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila* before 5:00 PM on April 15 – 28, 2005, upon submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) addressed to the BMHI Procurement Bids and Award Committee (BMHI-PBAC) Chairperson and payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00). Duly accomplished Application for Eligibity and Eligibity Forms shall be submitted not later than May 02, 2005, 5:00pm at the above-mentioned address

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the Project, you may get in touch with **Engr. Antonio Estrada of the PBAC – BMHI Technical Working Group at telephone number 541-3160.**

GLORIA GEORGINA DJ JOTA
BMHI - PBAC Chairperson

(PDI-- April 15, 2005)

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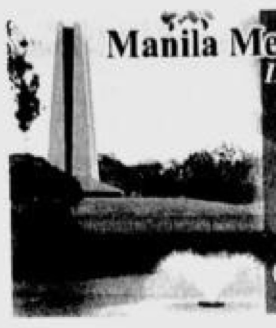
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FR. BENIGNO A. MAYO, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Wednesday, 13 April 2005.

Wake: Oratory of St. Ignatius at Loyola House of Studies,
Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C.
Mass every evening at 8:00 p.m.

Funeral Mass: at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, 16 April
in the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies.

Interment: Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C.,
immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

The **Maryknoll Sisters** express their
deep gratitude for the life of their

SISTER HELEN FITTON (Catherine Patrice), M.M.

*who passed on to Resurrected Life at Mt. Kisco Hospital,
New York on March 30, 2005.*

She was a Maryknoll Sister for 61 years and was Principal of Maryknoll Grade School and founder of the Child Study Center.

A Memorial Mass will be held at Miriam College Chapel, Katipunan Road, Quezon City on April 30, 2005, at 10:00 a.m.

Please join us.

DEATH NOTICES

MA. PEPA PEDROZA DUMON

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 10, 2005.

Her remains lie in state at the Rolling Hills Funeral Parlor in Cebu until April 14 and will be brought to her family residence in Barangay Fatima, Daang Bantayan, Cebu on April 15, 2005. Interment will be on April 23, 2005 in Daang Bantayan, Cebu.

MA. TERESA B. PRIETO

*Passed away in the grace of our Lord on April 10, 2005
at the age of 53 at Torrance, California, U.S.A.*

The cremains will arrive in and will lie in state at St. Rafael Church Mortuary, Legazpi City, Albay on April 22, 2005. Interment will be on April 23, 2005 at Bicol Memorial Park, Bonot, Legazpi City after a 9:00 AM Mass at St. Rafael Church mortuary.

RODOLFO "DING" GM. ROXAS

Died in the grace of our Lord on April 12, 2005 at the age of 68.

His body lies in state at the Baltazar Chapel, Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Paranaque. Interment will be on April 17, 2005 at the Lipa City Catholic Cemetery after the 2 PM Mass at the Basilica of St. Sebastian.

Twentieth Death Anniversary

Arturo R. Tanco, Jr.

August 22, 1933- April 18, 1985

In the course of his colorful and fulfilling life
Bong left behind a host of accomplishments:

Unparalleled service to the country as our
longest-serving Secretary of Agriculture;

International acclaim as policy-maker
in multi-national agencies for food and agriculture;

Rehabilitation of distressed companies as
a pioneering business consultant and manager;

A hard-won local reputation as a fierce competitor
in football, basketball and indoor sports;

And most enduring of all – as a true friend
who treated people in all walks of life as "jewels."

In his honor, the friends of Bong have organized a celebration of his life to be held at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club on Monday, April 18th at 6 pm. Interested parties will please call Vangie at 815-2245 for details.

Masses will be offered at Ayala Alabang Parish on Sunday, the 17th at 4 pm and at the Department of Agriculture on Monday the 18th at 12 noon.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

"I finished my race; I fought my good fight. I did not give up; I kept my faith. Yet death may still bear meaning or purpose for others, if not our lives... Lord, look upon us with your mercy and love in our last moments of human frailty. Let us sing You praise and glory forever in Your house." (Ted Borlongan 4/11/05)

TEODORO CHAN BORLONGAN

*Born on April 15, 1955 and died in the peace of
Christ and Mama Mary on April 11, 2005.*

His wife **Dolly** and children **Kathy**, **Jonathan**, **Chris** and **Stephie**; his brothers **Danny** (†) and **Cherry**, **Mario** and **Cora**, **Jun** and **Biya**, **Jack** and **Puchi**; and sister **Emily** and **Kim**; his parents **Eliseo Sr.** (†) and **Anna** (†); and his father-in-law **Eduardo Siojo Enriquez** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City. There will be a memorial Mass on April 15 at 8:00 in the evening.

Interment will follow at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City on Saturday, April 16, after the 9:00 a.m. requiem Mass at Christ the King.

"Happy 50th Birthday Ted! We love and admire you very much."

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OUR DEARLY BELOVED FATHER

FRANCISCO CRESCINI BERNAL

*Joined his Creator on April 12, 2005
at the age of 76.*

His beloved wife Nora Magao Bernal; children Alex (†) & Zeny, Bien and Virgie, Cora, Danny and Venus, Edwin and Meldy, Ferdie and Jaygie, Gina and Bong, Hernan and Clarie; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

His remains lies at their residence.

Interment will be on April 16, 2005 at Himlayang Caviteño after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at San Roque Parish Church.

* Service by: Filipinas Funeral Homes, Cavite City

We design OBITUARIES for free.

Pacific Plans seeks investors

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PACIFIC Plans Inc., the pre-need firm of the Yuchengco group, yesterday said it was looking for investors willing to put in P300 million in working capital.

PPI legal counsel and spokesperson Maria Jeanette Tecson said the pre-need firm was hoping to spark talks with investors, including the Yuchengco family, to infuse the much-needed capital to continue its operations.

"The problem now is there is no serious investor who would want to come in with all these problems so we want to close the books on these problems," Tecson told reporters.

PPI urgently needs the additional funds to bankroll the tuition fees of some 16,000 students for school year 2005-2006, which it is obliged to pay under the terms of the education plans.

PPI estimates that it will have to shell out P350 million in May this year to meet its tuition fee obligations.

Its expected difficulty in meeting these obligations forced it to file a petition for rehabilitation with the Makati court.

PPI said that tuition fees have been increasing at a tremendous rate since the government removed the 10-percent cap on tuition hikes in 1990.

PPI assured the public, however, that it was not about to close down, but was just grappling with a liquidity problem.

Even the Securities and Exchange Commission said that PPI was still in good financial shape.

SEC chair Fe Barin said in a briefing yesterday that based on PPI's unaudited financial reports submitted to the SEC, the pre-need firm servicing some 34,000 education plan holders "looked all right."

"We get a report of the composition of their trust fund from the trustee bank and they were compliant in terms of the capital requirement or the total trust fund requirements," Barin said.

"What they are saying is that they decided to take a close look at what they have, their expected cash flow and what would be the amounts required of them," she added.

Barin said that while PPI has the necessary assets to meet all of its obligations, cashing in on them today would mean investment losses, thus, affecting their ability to pay future obligations to other plan holders.

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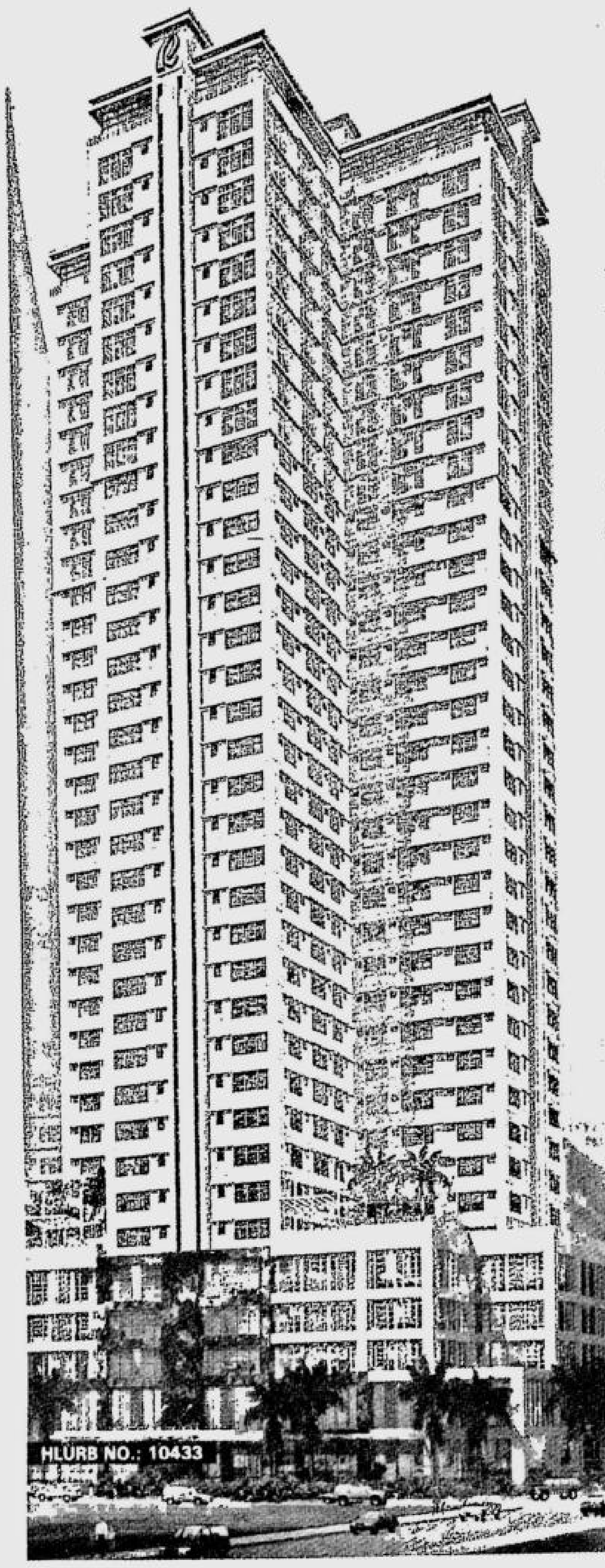

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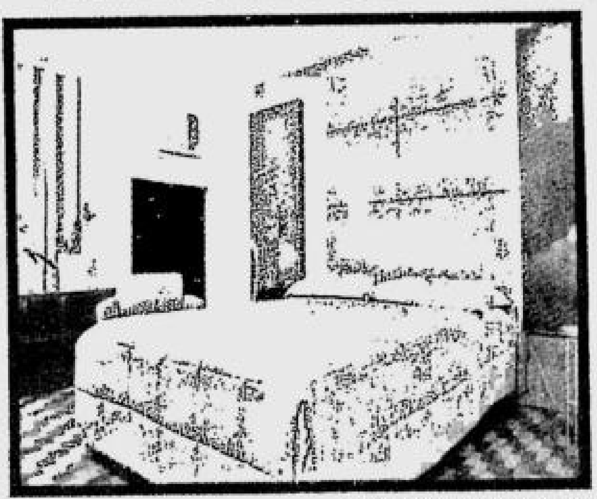

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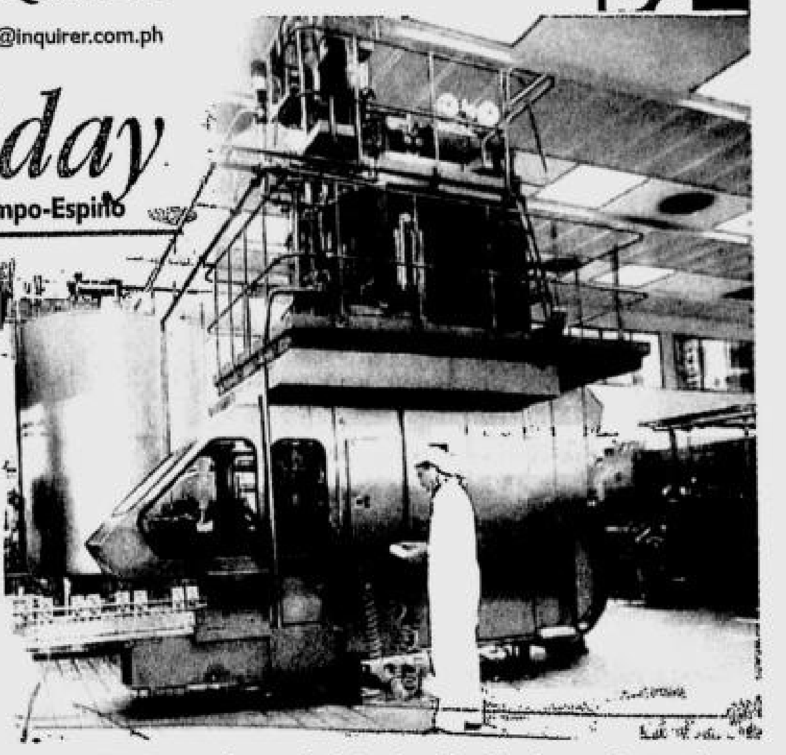
Learning Pinoy values can make you a good manager



MANAGERS can enhance their leadership effectiveness by tapping into the Filipino penchant for a festive atmosphere, at least when occasions allow it.

IT'S a familiar sight, especially in the Makati Business District—foreigners, mostly Caucasians, in dark suits carrying briefcases, with somber expressions, going from one office to another. These expatriates were given the rare and lucrative opportunity to run multinational companies and oversee a staff composed mainly of Filipinos.

Knowing that these expats have spent merely months in the Philippines, one cannot help but wonder how these expatriate executives, without prior management experience in the country, are put in positions that make them responsible for the performance of hundreds of Filipinos. How well do they understand the set of "Pinoy" norms in the workplace? Can they lead an organization given an entirely different value structure?

In the book "Leading in High Growth Asia" edited by Dean Tjosvold (Lingnan University, Hong Kong) and Kwok Leung (City University of Hong Kong), Dr. Benito L. Teehankeee, Doctor of Business Administration Program Director of the De La Salle Professional Schools Inc. Graduate School of Business, authored a chapter entitled "Culturally Sensitive Leadership in the Philippine Setting" that draws on the work of social scientists and management writers who have analyzed how Filipinos think and behave in order to gain deeper understanding of the implications of Filipino values on managerial leadership, particularly expatriates.

Social acceptance

Teehankee's treatise stated that Filipinos have high regard for social acceptance and smooth interpersonal relations. He cited Frank Lynch (1981), an American Jesuit and social scientist, who codified Filipino values extensively, in exploring the concept of smooth interpersonal relations or SIR and the related practice of *pakikisama* or getting along. According to Lynch, SIR may be defined as "faculty at getting along with others in a way as to avoid outward signs of conflict: glum or sour looks, harsh words, open disagreement or physical violence."

Based on this premise, Teehankee concluded that an important requirement for any manager to be perceived as a good leader by a Filipino is to have genuine regard for workers. Filipinos look for caring leaders, who will make time to interact with subordinates, listen and understand their concerns, and value their contribution to the organization by consulting them on matters that they are knowledgeable of.

Giving critical or corrective feedback to a subordinate is best done in private. This will not only make the manager seem sensitive but will also make the feedback more acceptable. Public loss of face is considered a major indignity. However, praise for performance should be generally targeted at groups. Affirmation of an individual's performance can be done in public with care to avoid making someone else suffer by comparison, since this other party might lose face as a result.

Business and pleasure

Social scientists have noted that Filipinos do not see work as separate from fun. Work is closely tied up with other social practices and the climactic conditions in the country.

Managers can enhance their leadership effectiveness by tapping into the Filipino penchant for a festive atmosphere, at least when occasions allow it. A work group's progress toward tough milestones, for example, can be marked by small celebrations with light snacks. This sends a message of appreciation, and by allowing pause to collectively rejoice in progress, the group strengthens its commitment to the next milestone.

New members in the work group can be welcomed with some ritual fanfare by an assigned or volunteer group of old members. Such an icebreaker reduces the tensions that normally accompany the entry experience for a new employee. It also shows regard for the original members who feel that they are welcoming the new member to the family.

Professionalism and personalism

Teehankee's study also refers to social scientist F. Landa Jocano (1990) who noted that to the Filipino, the professional and the personal cannot be completely separated. One mistake that can be made is to insist that purely professional concerns (meaning organizational and not family or in-group concerns) dominate a worker's priorities. It must be realized that a Filipino's very identity and the sense of meaning are significantly tied to his or her group membership. The challenge, therefore, to contemporary management leadership, is to link corporate goals to personal and group goals and sentiments.

This set of norms implies that managers need to spend time getting to know the personal backgrounds and aspirations of subordinates in the areas which the subordinate is willing to disclose. Discussing family concerns occasionally can give valuable clues to a manager on the motivations of the Filipino worker. This empathetic practice is already gaining recognition as an effective management practice even in the west, as state in the study of Goleman in 1995.

Likewise, policies and working conditions need to be reviewed in terms of their sensitivity to the needs of employees and their families. This is akin to recent trend in family-oriented companies in the United Sates because of the growing need to retain talent in a competitive job market.

Where to go for business financing

KNOW where to get financing for your business—big or small. This is the topic of the seminar to be conducted by the Bosconian International Chamber of Commerce Inc. (BICC), together with DB Students' Business Center (DBSBC) and Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. (SBGFC), an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, on April 20, 2005 at the Amorsolo Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Speakers from leading financing companies will present their credit facilities that are open to local businesses. The seminar is divided into two sessions. The morning session will have the micro financing facilities to be discussed by distinguished speakers from Quedancor, Land Bank and SBGFC to be followed by an open forum. Likewise, the afternoon session will present the SME lending facilities of Development Bank of the Philippines, BPI Family Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank. Par-

WHERE/ B2-3

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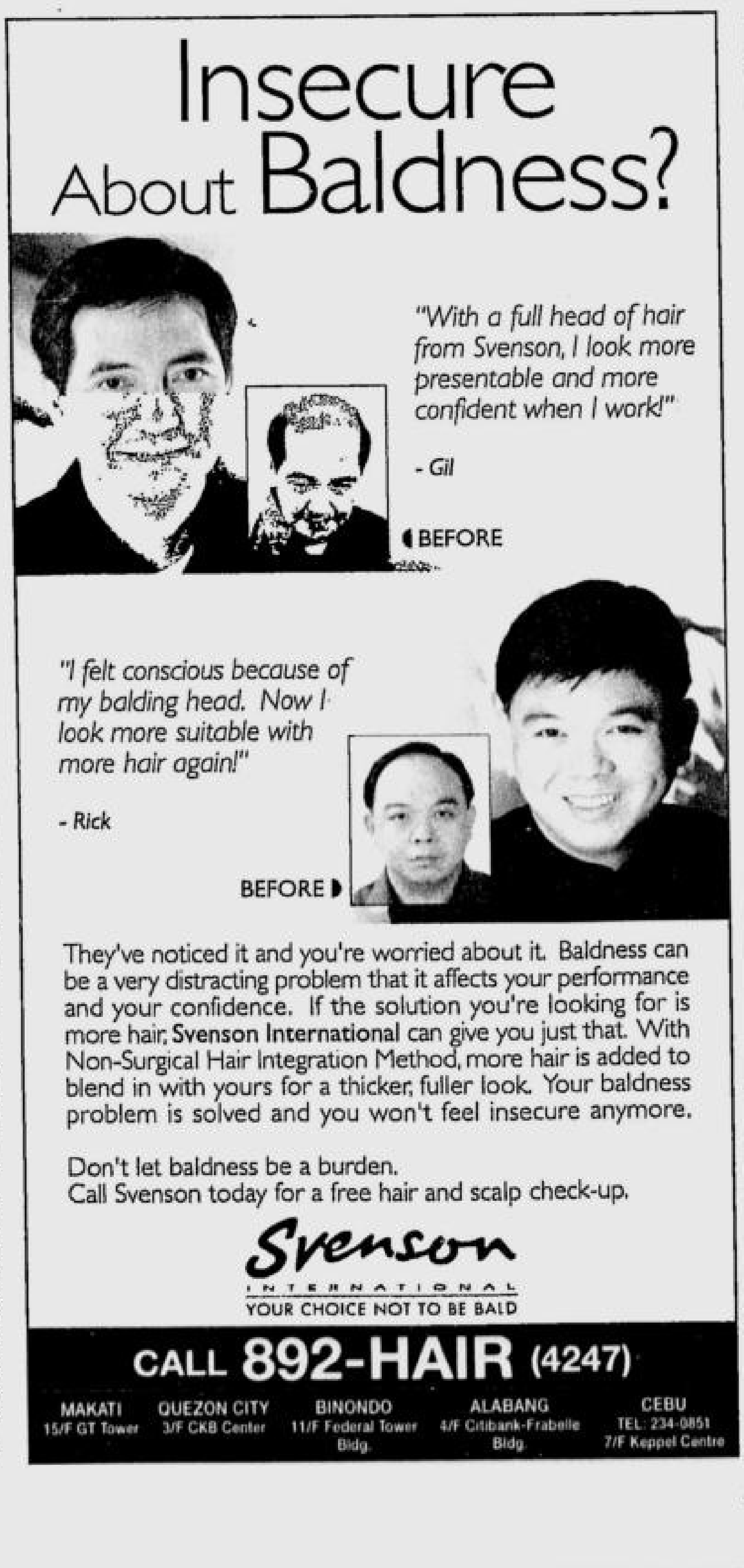

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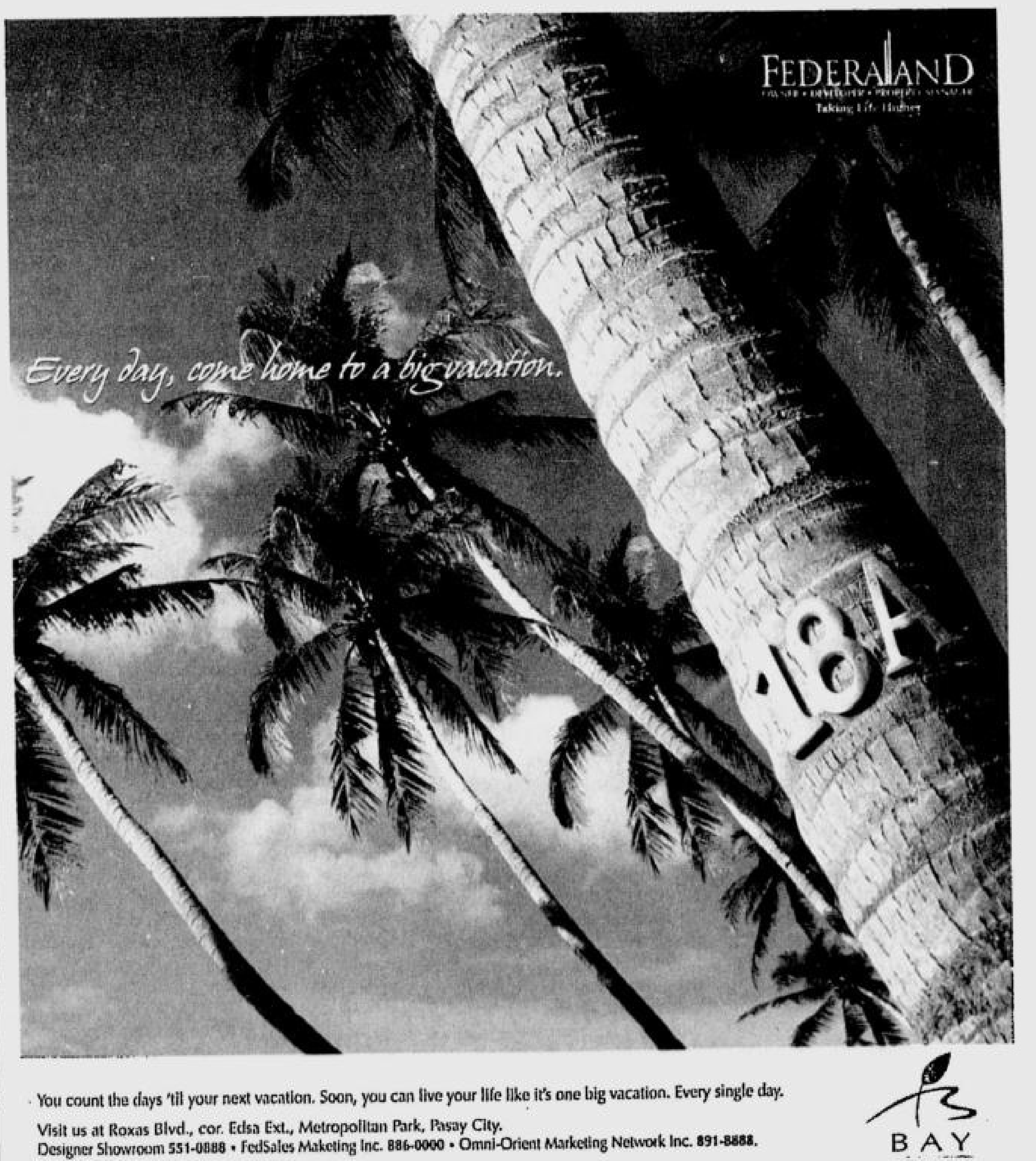

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Tower Awards 2005 extends deadline

THE DEADLINE for the submission of entries to the Tower Awards 2005 (The Outstanding Workers of the Republic) jointly sponsored by the Rotary Club of Manila, Metrobank Foundation Inc., and the Manila Peninsula has been extended to April 15.

The award is given to outstanding blue collar workers, both men and women in the fields of agriculture, fishery and forestry, communications, government, community and social services, construction, mining and quarrying, power generation and distribution, transportation, tourism, and other small scale industries.

Judging will be based on skills development, job innovation, performance in terms of quality, quantity, work and attitude, leadership, personal character and others.

Each winner will receive P50,000 in cash; a trophy; Baccalaureate Degree from the Technological University of the Philippines; full scholarship for a bachelor degree or a masteral degree, either from the Central Colleges of the Philippines, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila or TUP transferable to the awardee's children and one week complimentary accommodations at The Manila Peninsula.

Nomination may be obtained from the Rotary Club of Manila secretariat office, 2nd floor, Delgado Bldg., Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila or any Metrobank branch anywhere in the Philippines.

For more information, call Noel Gonzales at 527-1889, 527-5295; fax to 527-1885.

Study shows women in business spell higher economic growth

"RESEARCH in economic history is very conclusive on the role of women in economic growth and development: the more extensive women's participation in all areas of economic activities, the higher the probability for stronger economic growth. Hence, societies and economies that consistently fail to fully incorporate women's ability and talent in businesses and the workforce will suffer the consequences," observed Dr. Yuwa Hedrick-Wong, economic advisor to MasterCard International in Asia Pacific.

"Asia Pacific as a region compares relatively well in the global context in terms of women's advancement in areas like labor force participation and higher education. Progress is, of course, uneven across the region, and much more needs to be done in the future. MasterCard's MasterIndex of Women's Advancement could serve as a timely and useful monitoring tool, thus contributing to the region's progress," said Dr. Hedrick-Wong.

MasterCard has released the inaugural MasterIndex of Women's Advancement in Asia/Pacific, which compares the socio-economic level of women to men in 13 markets using four key indicators: participation in the labor force, tertiary education, managerial positions and above median income.

While the composite index score (67.7) for the region as a whole showed women were trailing their male counterparts overall, the report revealed that in tertiary education (86.3) and labor force participation (70.3), women were closing the gap. The scores for females in managerial positions and those with above median income were 60.5 and 53.6 respectively.

WOMEN's increasing presence in the workplace is being felt in the region.

The MasterIndex of Women's Advancement is the mean score of the four indicators. A score above 100 shows gender inequality in favor of women and a score below 100, gender inequality in favor of men. A score of 100 indicates complete equality between males and females.

The composite score for each of the 13 markets ranged from 45.5 to 92.3. Thailand (92.3) and Malaysia (86.2) had the highest composite scores, indicating that womffen's advancement was nearing parity with men's. Of particular note in the two markets were areas that women were clearly ahead of men: in Malaysia, the score of 119.4 for managerial positions showed a higher ratio of female to male managers. In Thailand, the tertiary education score stood at 131.9.

The 13 markets covered by the report are Australia, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam.

Highlights of findings

- Women's participation in the labor force came close to that of men in Thailand (82.9), Australia (81.0), Hong Kong (73.6), Korea (72.8), Japan (70.3), Singapore (69.8) and Taiwan (68.8).
- In the area of tertiary education, women's representation exceeds that of men in Thailand (131.9) and Australia (103.4). Women are also well represented in Hong Kong (88.6), Singapore (85.3) and Korea (74.4).
- The ratio of women in managerial positions surpasses that of men in Malaysia (119.4) while scores in Taiwan (73.9), China (70.5) and Thailand (73.2) indicate near equality between the sexes.
- In the area of earning above median income, women in Malaysia (82.4) and Thailand (81.4) are close to achieving parity with men.

Georgette Tan, vice president, Communications, Asia Pacific, MasterCard, said: "The new MasterIndex of Women's Advancement is an integral part of MasterCard's continuing commitment to the Asia/Pacific markets. The private and government sectors look to MasterCard as a knowledge center for influential insights into and critical analysis of consumer markets."

The MasterIndex of Women's Advancement is a composite index that comprises a set of measurable annual indicators from each market. National demographic and exclusive survey data are used to quantify the indicators.

Check the cash register machines you buy

By Ma. Fides A. Balili and Maria Myla S. Maralit
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

RECENTLY, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 11-2004, which prescribes the new rules and regulations on the accreditation, registration and use of cash register machines (CRMs), Point-Of-Sale (POS) machines and other business machines generating receipts or invoices. These rules became effective on February 4, 2005 and are intended to ensure the efficient collation of accurate data on the transactions recorded through taxpayer's business machines.

Since Feb. 4, 2005, only CRMs / POS machines that comply with the specifications required in the rules and that have been registered with the BIR will be issued "Permits to Use." All "Permits to Use" issued prior to Feb. 4, 2005 remain valid, as long as certain reportorial requirements (to be prescribed by a separate RR) are complied with.

Machine specifications

To qualify for accreditation, registration and use, CRMs / POS machines and other business machines must have the following general features:

1. The machine must have a non-resettable accumulating grand total. The accumulating grand total sales must have at least 12 digits, including decimal points. Within 30 days before full consumption of the previously reported accumulating grand total, the taxpayer must secure approval of the next accumulating grand total from the BIR.

2. The machine must be tamper-free. It must not be switchable to "training mode" or to "no-sale transaction mode" or to other manipulations that will avoid the recording of a sale transaction.

3. The machine and/or central server must be able to generate a report showing the reading of daily sales and the accumulated grand total.

4. The machine must be equipped with a back-up system.

5. The machine must reflect and/or store information such as sales discounts, refunds, etc.

6. The machine must be able to indicate separately, in words, sales of VAT and non-VAT items, and generate a report separately summarizing all VAT and non-VAT sales.

In addition:

1. CRMs must be equipped with two rollers—(1) for the audit journal tape, and (2) for the customers' tape copies which are issued as itemized and consecutively numbered receipts. There must be a safety mechanism that will prevent the operation of the machine if only one roller is used. Sales discounts, refunds, etc. should automatically be printed on the tapes; and all tape receipts issued must be of a quality that can be preserved for a period of 3 or 10 years (which is the maximum period within which the BIR can assess and collect taxes under the Tax Code).

2. All sales per POS machine connected to a server must be automatically and completely recorded in the central server, where the stored data must be preserved for a period of 3 or 10 years.

Monitoring controls and verification techniques must be disclosed to the BIR so that any voided sales and actual sales not recorded in the user's accounting records can be identified.

Receipt / invoice data requirements

The rules likewise require that the receipts or invoices generated by the machine should show the (a) business name, (b) registered taxpayer's name, (c) TIN, (d) address where the machine is used, (e) receipt / invoice number, (f) machine model accreditation number, (g) date of transaction, (h) quantity, (i) product description, (j) amount of transaction with separate totals for VAT and non-VAT transaction, and (k) the words "THIS SERVES AS AN OFFICIAL RECEIPT."

Those authorized to use CRMs or POS machines are generally exempt from showing on the receipt the purchaser's name, business style, address and TIN. However, if the purchaser is a VAT-registered entity and the CRM / POS machine is not capable of showing the purchaser's name, address and TIN, the rules require that a manually pre-printed and pre-numbered sales invoice or official receipt with approved "Authority to Print" must be requested by the purchaser and issued by the seller. Otherwise, the purchaser's claim for input tax will be disallowed.

"Immediate use" by business establishments

Under the rules, as long as the machine/system model is already accredited by the BIR, and the supplier of the machine model has already registered the machine with the BIR on behalf of the user, the user may immediately use the CRMs / POS machines without need for prior inspection and authorization by the BIR.

However, if the machine/system model has not been previously accredited by the BIR, but it is fully compliant with the specifications under the rules, the user may himself register the machine / system and he will be issued a provisional authority to use the machine / system.

The machine / system may be inspected by representatives from the BIR at any time during store hours to verify compliance with the rules. Any machine found to be non-compliant may be considered subject to seizure.

Accreditation is supplier's responsibility

The rules state that the supplier of CRMs / POS machines must have the machines duly accredited by the BIR prior to their actual sale. If the supplier is a large taxpayer, the application for accreditation shall be filed with the National Office CRM/POS Machine Accreditation Board (NMAB).

Otherwise, or if the supplier is a regular taxpayer, the application will be filed with the Regional Office MAB (RMAB).

The application for accreditation will be in the form of a sworn declaration containing the name, address, business name, TIN, VAT or Non-VAT number of the supplier of the machine, and essential features of the machine (e.g., brand, model, machine properties, etc.), and supported by the following documents:

1. Copy of the supplier's current annual registration fee return;

2. Copies of the supplier's certificate of registration of business name/style issued by the BIR and Bureau of Domestic Trade and Industry, and certificate of registration issued by the SEC in case of corporations and partnerships;

3. Sample receipt generated by the machine legibly showing the required data;

4. Sample receipt showing the reading of the daily sales and accumulated grand total recorded in the machine;

5. Demo or evaluation copy of the software to be used in the actual operation of the POS machines;

6. System description and design / structure of the machine;

7. Master reset key/password used in reading sales data of all units of the particular model being accredited;

8. Machine brochure; and

9. Operating manual.

To determine compliance with the rules, an actual system demonstration or machine inspection will be conducted by the supplier. Upon approval by the Board, the accreditation certificate will be issued by the Large Taxpayers Assistance Division (LTAD) I or II / Large Taxpayers District Office (LTDO) if the supplier is a Large Taxpayer; or by the Revenue District Office (RDO) if the supplier is a regular taxpayer.

The accreditation granted is limited to the particular brand-model/software presented for evaluation and approval, and any upgrading, integration or modification on the machine requires prior approval. Any violation will be sufficient basis for the immediate revocation of the accreditation granted, and the supplier will be subjected to appropriate sanctions under existing laws and regulations.

Registration of cash register and POS machines

Within five days from sale of the machine and before it is actually used by the buyer, the supplier of the CRM / POS machine must register the machine on behalf of the buyer. Registration may be made either (i) manually with the RDO/ LTAD I and II / LTDO, or (ii) electronically through the BIR's e-mail or website. The following information must be disclosed in registering the machine:

1. TIN of the buyer;

2. VAT or non-VAT number of the taxpayer-buyer;

3. Serial number, brand and model of the machine sold;

4. Present reading and date of reading.

If the application for Permit to Use is filed through the BIR's e-mail or website facilities, the applicant will be issued a system-generated Permit, which may be printed from the applicant's computer. The Permit will then be forwarded to the buyer of the machine and will serve as the taxpayer's authorization to use the machine. The Permit to Use must be attached to the back of the machine to which it refers, and must be visible to the public.

Upon registration of the machine, an accreditation-registration number will be issued, which must be printed on the receipt / invoice.

Conditions for use of CRMs / POS machines

The use of CRMs / POS machines is subject to the following conditions:

For users of CRMs:

1. A duly registered cash register sales book must be maintained for each machine used;

2. No CRM shall be operated without the corresponding tapes installed on both rollers or its equivalent;

3. The imprint on the tapes should be legible at all times, and preserved for 3/10 years within which the BIR can assess and collect taxes;

4. The subsidiary cash register sales book must be kept at the place where the CRM is located, and must be available at any time for verification by duly authorized internal revenue officers;

5. Electronic CRMs must be used with working recovery systems at all times.

For users of POS machines:

1. For the use of the machine for the subsequent document range of serial numbers, the user must secure approval from the BIR, in writing, at least one month before the previously authorized document range numbers is consumed;

2. No POS machine shall be operated without the corresponding electronic journal.

For users of both CRMs and POS machines:

1. All number of resets must be duly recorded and reported to the BIR;

2. All machines must not be switched to "training mode" or to "no-sale transaction mode," or otherwise manipulated to impair / impede / suspend the recording of a sale transaction, unless the receipt / invoice clearly indicates that it is not an official receipt;

3. The machine must be used exclusively in the operation of only one line of business covered by the Permit to Use. If the enterprise is conducted simultaneously with another line of business for which no cash register permit has been issued, sales made in the latter line of business must be covered with the corresponding issuance of registered sales invoices or receipts;

4. The user must not change his business name or the use of the registered machine, or transfer to another business location, branch or establishment or otherwise, without prior written notice to the proper BIR office;

5. The machine must not be repaired, upgraded, changed, modified, updated, or removed from its specified location, without prior written notice to the proper BIR office;

6. In case of repair, upgrade, change, modification, update of the machine, the user and the person who made the repair / upgrade / change / modification / update must submit a joint sworn statement attesting to such development to the BIR office having jurisdiction over the user before re-use of the concerned machine. The machine shall then be inspected and evaluated by the NMAB / RMAD prior to actual use.

7. Registered machines may be withdrawn from use only upon prior application of, and approval by, the Chief, LTAD I or II / Chief, LTDO / RDO. Upon issuance of the approval for withdrawal, the user must surrender the Permit to Use for cancellation by the BIR.

8. In no case shall the CRM / POS machine be used without the customer's receipt clearly indicating all the required data, except in the case of machines where the user has been authorized to use the same pending the completion of the installation of the official receipt header, for a period not exceeding 30 days from the date of such authority.

9. The receipt numbering mechanism must not be disturbed or tampered with.

Submission of list of machines sold

The rules require all machine suppliers to electronically submit to the proper BIR office a summary list of machines sold within 15 days from the end of each taxable quarter.

CRMs / POS machines used for internal control

The rules allow a CRM / POS machine to be used for internal control purposes, as long as duly registered sales invoices or receipts are issued for every sale, and the machine supplier is notified of such intention by the user. The machine supplier will, in turn, inform the appropriate BIR office of such intention and secure a poster showing the qualifier: "WARNING – THIS MACHINE IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE RECEIPT. ASK FOR SALES INVOICE. REPORT ANY VIOLATION TO THE BIR." This poster must be securely attached at the back of the machine.

However, CRMs without a built-in receipt-dispensing mechanism or roller may be used for internal control purposes without complying with the above requirements.

Inclusion of other lines of business

A CRM that can accumulate sales data of different lines of business may be used to issue cash register receipts for all such different lines of business, as long as the distinction of sales by line of business is clearly indicated on the paper tapes in words rather than in codes or symbols.

Unmanned machines capable of dispensing goods in exchange for bills, coins or tokens but incapable of issuing cash register receipts must likewise be registered in accordance with the rules.

The procedure for accreditation and registration also covers taxi-meters, but the specifications of qualified taxi-meters shall be covered by a separate RR.

Submission of inventory listing

All sellers of business machines must submit to the proper BIR office an inventory of non-compliant machine stocks, together with a time table indicating when these machine stocks will be consumed and when they will sell only machines compliant with the rules.

While the rules do not impose any penalty, sellers of business machines are advised to pull out of distribution or sale non-compliant machines, and buyers are warned on the consequence of using non-compliant machines.

Make the most of your summer with credit cards

SUMMER is that time of the year when most people go to their favorite vacation spots for that welcome respite from everyday stress. Some head for the local beach resorts while others prefer to travel abroad for a few days of shopping. Wherever the destination, a lot of people rely on their credit cards to ensure a hassle-free vacation. With a credit card, there is no need to bring along a huge amount of cash to pay for hotel bills and restaurant meals and it also saves people the effort of converting cash to foreign currencies.

To make the most of the use of your credit cards, the Credit Card Association of the Philippines offers the following tips:

- Before going on that trip, ensure that all bills are updated and paid prior to the due date to avoid any inconvenience.
- If you have a new card, make sure you sign the signature panel at the back as soon as you receive it.
- Keep a record of your credit card account numbers and expiration dates in a safe place that only you have access to. Make sure you keep the toll-free numbers handy in case of an emergency or if you need to report lost or stolen cards.
- Memorize your PIN. Never write it down or disclose it to anyone. No one from any financial institution, merchant or even the police should ask you for your PIN.
- When selecting a PIN, avoid using words and numbers that can be guessed easily. This includes your name, birthdays, phone numbers or a combination of any of these.
- Majority of credit card errors and potential fraud take place at the point of sale. Refuse to give out personal information when making an over-the-counter transaction.
- Your address and phone number are not required as a condition when making a purchase with a credit card. An ID, however, may be requested.
- Be careful when giving out your credit card number over the phone unless you are sure that you are dealing with a reputable firm or you initiated the call yourself. When in doubt, ask for information in writing from the company making the offer.
- Do not allow any representative of the merchant to record your credit card number on a check, receipt or other document. If the card authorization form has carbons, either take them with you or tear them up before you leave.
- Keep copies of sales vouchers and always take receipts with you. Casually discarded receipts can be used to make fraudulent charges against your account.
- When paying with your credit card, check the charges before you sign the receipt.
- Ensure that you get your card back after each transaction. Check the card to see if it is your credit card that was returned to you. Put your credit card away as soon as the transaction is completed. Leaving it on the counter provides opportunities for strangers to read the numbers on your card.
- Treat your cards as if they were cash. Do not leave them lying around in your hotel room, car, restaurant, club or at the beach or any place where anyone can have access to them.
- It may be good to keep only one or two credit cards in your wallet and the rest in your checkbook or another secure location. This way, you do not risk losing all your credit cards in case you lose your wallet.
- Report a lost or stolen card as soon as possible so your card issuer can deactivate it immediately.
- If you use your credit card to make an ATM transaction, remember to take your transaction record along with your card after completing the transaction. When your card gets stuck inside an ATM machine, be suspicious of anyone offering help even if they appear to be a bank security officer. Criminals can obtain your PIN by shoulder surfing or straightforward questioning and then retrieve your card from the machine and use it to withdraw funds.
- Upon receiving a billing statement, especially after a trip, check it thoroughly. Make sure that the amounts on your receipts and sales vouchers match the items charged in your statement.
- Should you find a transaction you did not make, report this to your card issuer immediately. Follow up with a letter stating that an unauthorized charge was made. This makes sure that your card issuer understands that you are reporting a fraud rather than a billing error.
- Settle the bill prior to due date.
- Use your credit cards wisely and enjoy your summer vacation with your family and friends.

Where to go . . .

From page B2-1

ticipants may choose to attend one or both sessions. Consultants and account officers from other banks and lending companies will be available for a one-on-one consultation with participants.

Seminar fees per session are P500 and P750 for card-bearing BICC members and non-members, respectively. This includes snack and information kit.

For more details, you may call the BICC secretariat at Tel. 534-3481 or visit the website www.bicc.org.ph.

What sales . . .

From page B2-4

of both (A&P). This means that when you advertise, don't forget to do promo as well. Or when you do sales promo, don't forget to advertise your promo to widen consumer awareness for it.

As to effectiveness, particularly "sales effectiveness," that's a matter of data or research. Monitor sales before, during and (most importantly) after the A&P campaign. If you have limited budget for monitoring, then track sales from your "Pareto" retail accounts, i.e., the 20 percent of your retail customers accounting for 80 percent (or so) of your sales.

In your monitoring, look at your brand's sales during the period before the sales promo campaign and note its pattern (increasing, stable, or declining). Then record your sales increase during the sales promo period. How much incremental sales did the campaign generate? By incremental sales, we refer to the total sales increase minus the sales increase from the natural increasing sales pattern during the period preceding the promo campaign.

Next, note sales during the period after the campaign. If the sales curve went back to its pre-campaign pattern, then the sales promo had a sales effectiveness equal to that incremental sales. However, if the sales curve takes a pattern below its pre-campaign pattern and the area of this sales fall is equal to the area of the incremental sales, then there was no sales effectiveness. In this case, consumers simply advanced their purchases to the promo period to take advantage of its offered incentives. The ideal, of course, is when the post-campaign sales curve goes down but stays above the pre-campaign pattern. That means your sales promo did not only get that incremental sales but also got some consumers to stay with your brand.

Finally, your last question: "What are the current advertising and sales promo budget trends here in the Philippines?"

We don't have industry-wide and cross-industry data on this. But we know specific cases. We know in particular what multinational consumer companies have been doing. Many of them follow the practice in the headquarters.

Consider, for example, how the A&P budgeting has evolved in the US headquarters of multinational corporations doing consumer marketing in the Philippines.

The Donnelly Marketing Inc.'s Survey of Promotional Practice shows that in 1981 A&P spending in the US divided into 43 percent advertising, 23 percent consumer promo, and 24 percent trade promo. Ten years later, in 1991, the split was: 25 percent advertising, 25 percent consumer promo, and 50 percent trade promo. After another 10 years, the split became: 21 percent advertising, 21 percent consumer promo, and 58 percent trade promo. Today, the trend continues as 'below-the-line' promos and direct marketing continue to eat into the traditional advertising budget.

Your immediate question of course is: "Is this true in the Philippines?" For many A&P campaigns by MNCs, we know that this is true. Local companies that practice the multinationals' category management have also given more and more of their A&P budget to trade promotion.

What this pattern means in consumer behavior terms is clear. More and more consumer purchase decisions are made at point-of-purchase, namely, at the store or trade level. Consumer companies have noted this and so have retail stores. That's the consumer behavior trend that underlies the change in the A&P budget split in favor of trade promo.

Dr Ned's Marketing Success Seminar is set for April 21-22. Call Jenny at 813-2732/03 for details. Feedback at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.

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Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday
1
2
3
golf day!!!
Clark
Basco, Batanes
my northern adventure
8
9
10
Boracay
fun in the sun
Cebu
buy mangoes
16
17
Palawan
nature trippin
visit college buddy
24
Siargao
just to see what's there
SOUTH EAST ASIAN AIRLINES
VICKY SANTIAGO
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Adventure Pass
26
27
28
29

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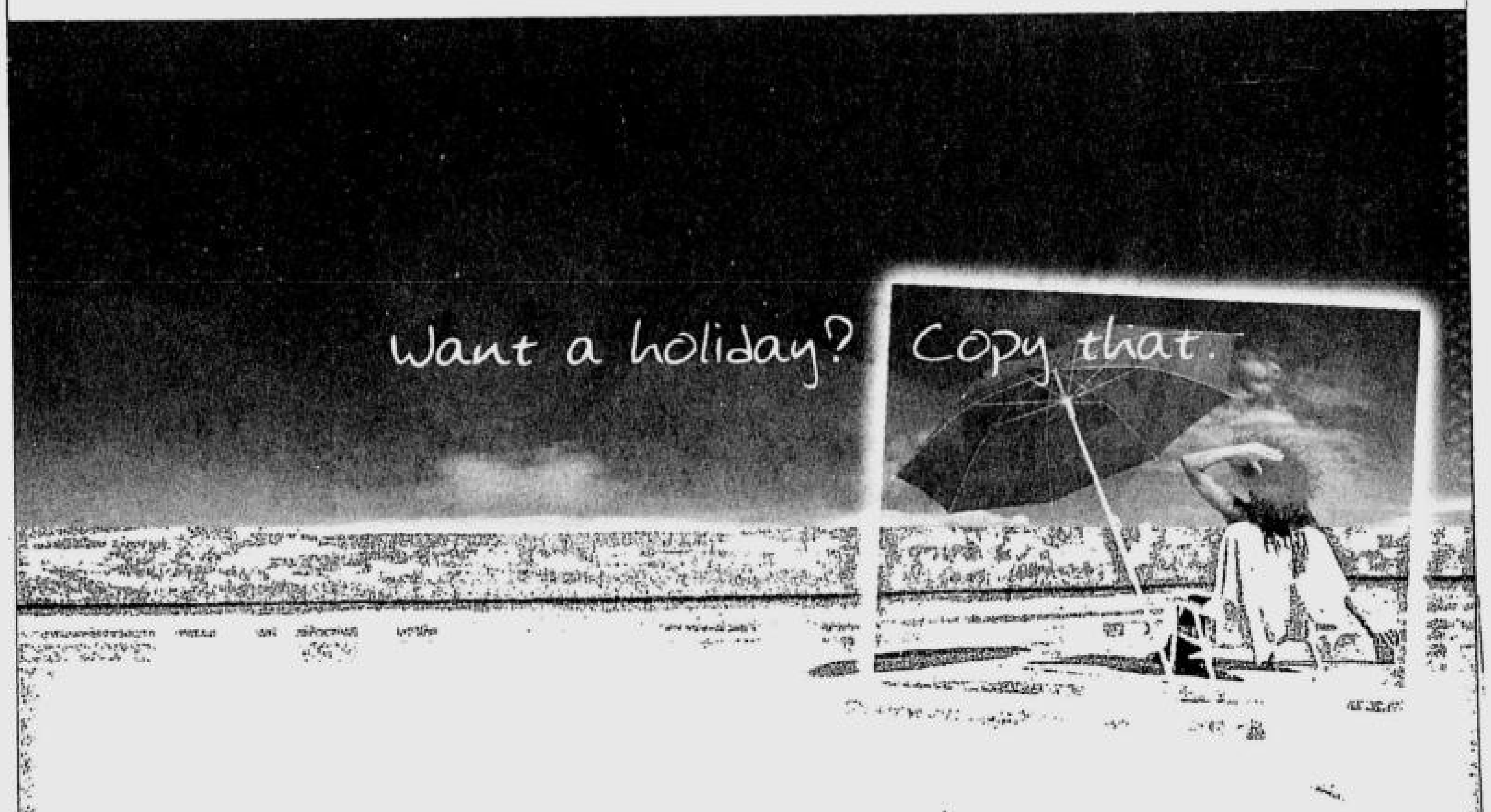
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3. The warranty card stub will serve as the official raffle stub. Simply fill-out completely the whole warranty card. Tear the other half of the warranty card, which will serve as the raffle entry, and drop this in the drop box located in the dealer office where the unit is purchased. The remaining half of the warranty card will serve as proof for redemption purposes.
4. Deadline for submission of entries is on April 30, 2005, 5:00 PM. Raffle draw will be on May 15, 2005 at 2:00 PM at the Canon Marketing Philippines Main Office at Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City, under the presence of a DTI representative.
5. All purchases made from March 1 to April 30, 2005 are eligible to join the raffle promotion.
6. Employees of Canon Marketing (Phils.), Inc., Dentsu Philippines, Inc. and participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
7. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash. Winners can only win once.
8. Winners will shoulder the required 20% tax for prizes that will exceed P10,000.
9. The list of winners will be published in major publications (PDI, Phil. Star, MB) on May 18, 2005 after the draw. Winners will be notified via registered mail. For the raffle promo, the redemption period shall be within 60 days from receipt of notification letter. For the premium item, redemption period shall be within 60 days from end of promo period.
10. To claim prize, winners must present the warranty stub, a valid I.D. and the registered notice. In the event that the winner cannot present the warranty stub, the winner can still claim his prize upon presentation of valid I.D. and registered notice. For provincial winners, they can claim their prize at the nearest outlet/branch.

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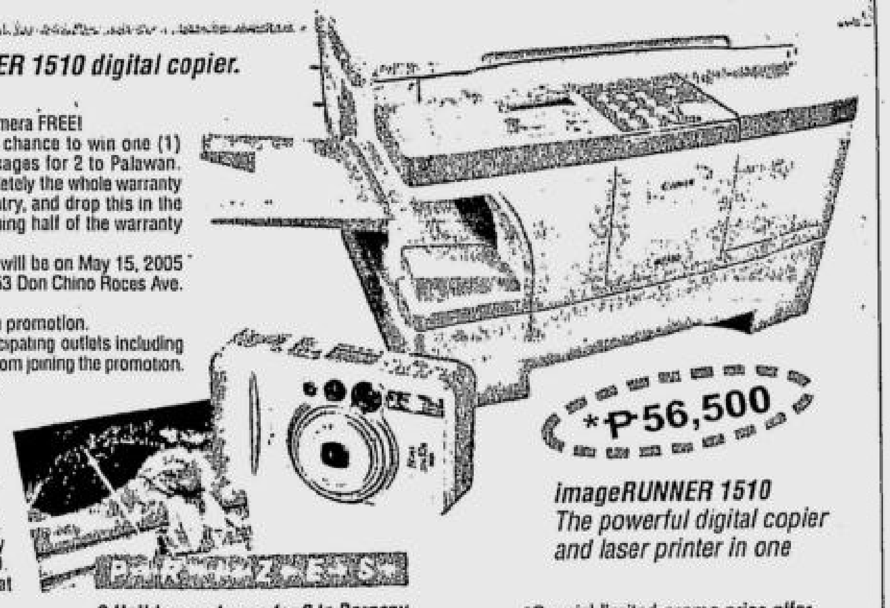

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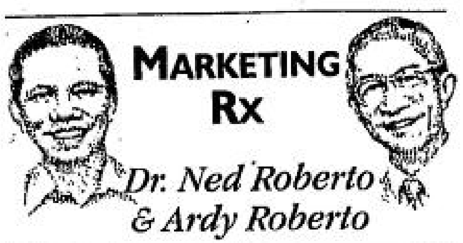
BUSINESS Friday

What sales promotions are best for what products



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: I'M AN avid fan of your column. I just have a couple of questions regarding sales promotion. First, what sales promotions are best for what products? Second, what are the effects of different combinations of advertising and sales promotions on brand awareness and sales volume? And third, what are the current advertising and sales promo budget trends here in the Philippines? —Wilhem Nolasco

A: We'll give each of your three questions direct, straight diagnosis with its logical prescription. So let's start with your first question: "What sales promotions are best for what products?"

This first question has an inappropriate reference point. It is not 'products' that should be the reference point. Sales promotions are for moving any product. They are specifically meant to trigger some particular market and consumer response or behavior. So the correct form of your question should read this way: "What sales promotions are best for what target market and consumer behaviors?"

Defining target consumer response

Suppose you want your brand's current customers to do the following: (1) buy more, (2) buy now, and (3) try your new pack size. If you ask your promo agency people, they'll tell you that different consumer promos work for each of these target customer responses. For getting your brand's customers to buy more, volume discount or "value" packages are best. For getting them to buy now, the sales promo that work better than others are rebates and coupons. And if your brand just came out with a new pack size and you want customers to try this, a different consumer promo like sampling has proven the most effective.

Here's your marketing prescription: Always start FIRST by defining your target consumer response or responses and not with your favorite sales promo type or activity. For your consumer promotion concerns, talk to your consumer promo agency or your ad agency who may (at your discretion) also be serving as your consumer promo agency. For your trade promotion concerns, talk to your distributor whose trade accounts will be asking for such marketing support.

Now to your second question: What are the effects of different combinations of advertising and sales promotions on brand awareness and sales volume?

Let's start our diagnosis with this important distinction: Sales promotion and advertising are different approaches to influencing sales. Advertising creates or increases consumer desire for your product. On the other hand, sales promotion assumes a fixed level of product desire and tries to close the deal by providing incentives to consumers to purchase."

Ad and promo

So you are correct in asking about "combinations of advertising and sales promotions." It's not an issue of advertising OR promotion (A/P). It's a question

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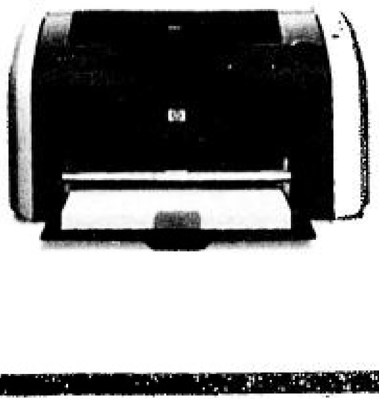

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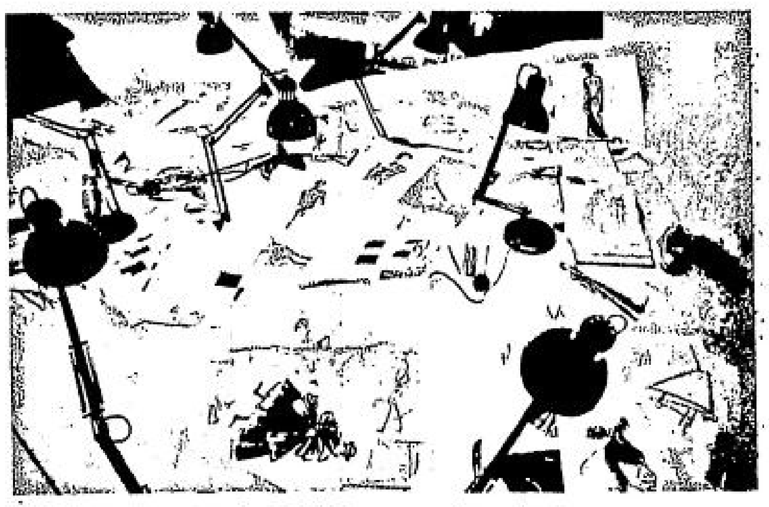
AFP

The chaos, clutter and charm of Yohji Yamamoto's world



DETAILED drawings by Yohji Yamamoto litter the floor at an installation at the Fashion and Textile Museum in Paris. AFP

A touchy-feely Paris exhibit faithfully recreates the Japanese designer's Tokyo workshop so visitors can trace his ideas from beginning to end

PARIS—Where does a designer get his inspiration for those to-die-for clothes which adorn the catwalks every year? Now a new Paris show is hoping to provide the answer, with an intimate, hands-on insight into the world of Japan's Yohji Yamamoto.

"Juste des Vetements" (Just Clothes), opening this week in Paris, offers a unique glimpse into the creative processes of one of fashion's top designers, faithfully reproducing Yamamoto's Tokyo workshop so visitors can trace his ideas from beginning to end.

It is also one of the rare retrospectives of the work of the 62-year-old designer, who has had such a huge influence in the industry. Such an exhibition has even never been held in Tokyo.

Workshop clutter

The first part of the exhibition at the Musee de la Mode plunges the visitor into the chaos and clutter of Yamamoto's workshop, while on the brightly lit, pristine second floor, almost 100 outfits are on show—many of which the visitor can touch, caress and examine in detail.

"We wanted to surprise the public, and show them all the steps from the material to the final design," said Yamamoto spokesperson Nathalie Ours.

In the workshop, detailed pencil drawings by Yamamoto litter the floor of one of the installations, underneath a huge picture of his desk, straining under the weight of piles of designs.

The disorder is far from the controlled structure and carefully crafted clothes, often starkly rendered in black or simple white, for which Yamamoto has made his name in both ready-to-wear and haute couture.

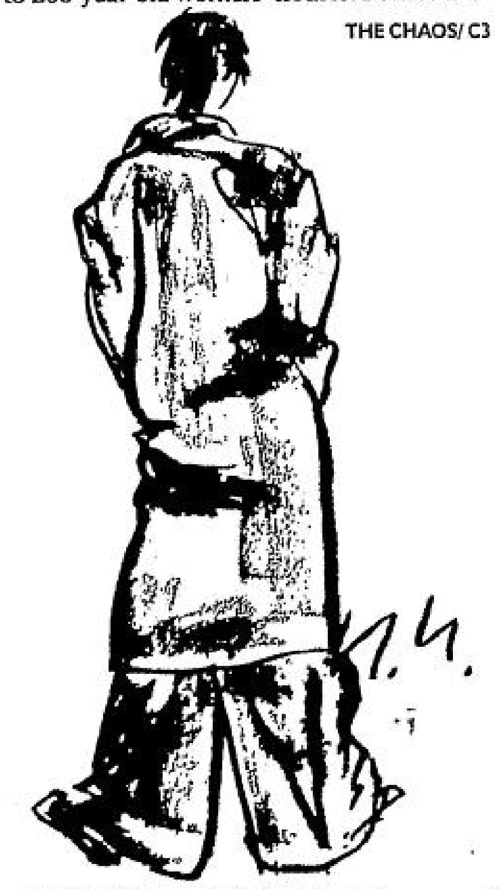
"This is a real hub of ideas. It is more reassuring, more accessible and more human, than if we had a picture of Yamamoto sitting alone on the floor with his pencil," said museum curator Olivier Saillard.

Eighteenth- and 19th-century pieces from the museum's collection have been dusted off to hang alongside Yamamoto designs, in the same way the Japanese designer displays vintage clothes in his workshop as a source of inspiration.

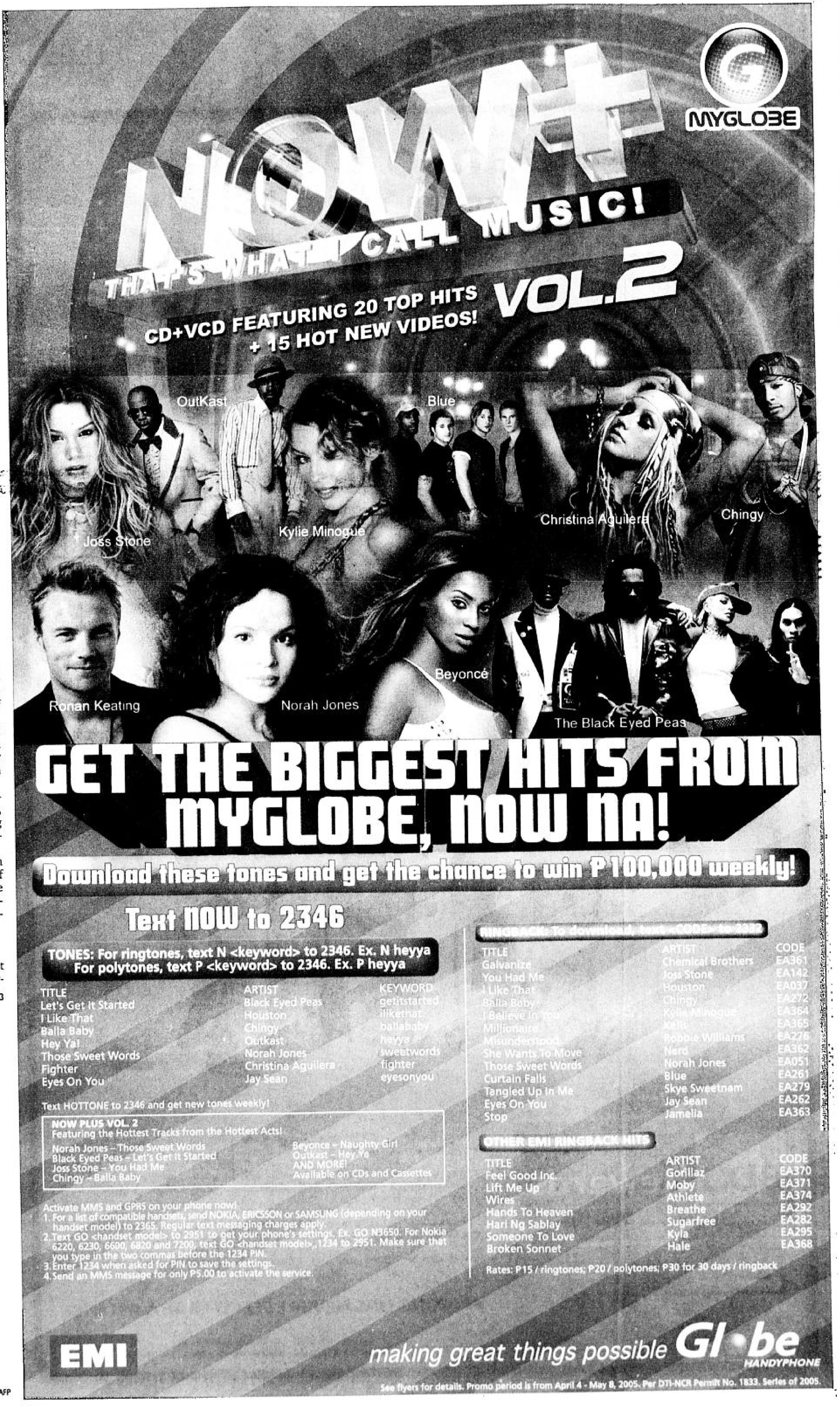
Vintage and mod

On one rail, Yamamoto designs hang next to 200-year-old workers' clothes. Both featur-

THE CHAOS/ C3



A FASHION sketch by Yamamoto. AFP



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Balla Baby	Chingy	EA272
I Believe In You	Kylie Minogue	EA364
Millionaire	Kelis	EA365
Misunderstood	Robbie Williams	EA276
She Wants To Move	Nerd	EA362
Those Sweet Words	Norah Jones	EA051
Curtain Falls	Blue	EA261
Tangled Up In Me	Skye Sweetnam	EA279
Eyes On You	Jay Sean	EA262
Stop	Jamelia	EA363

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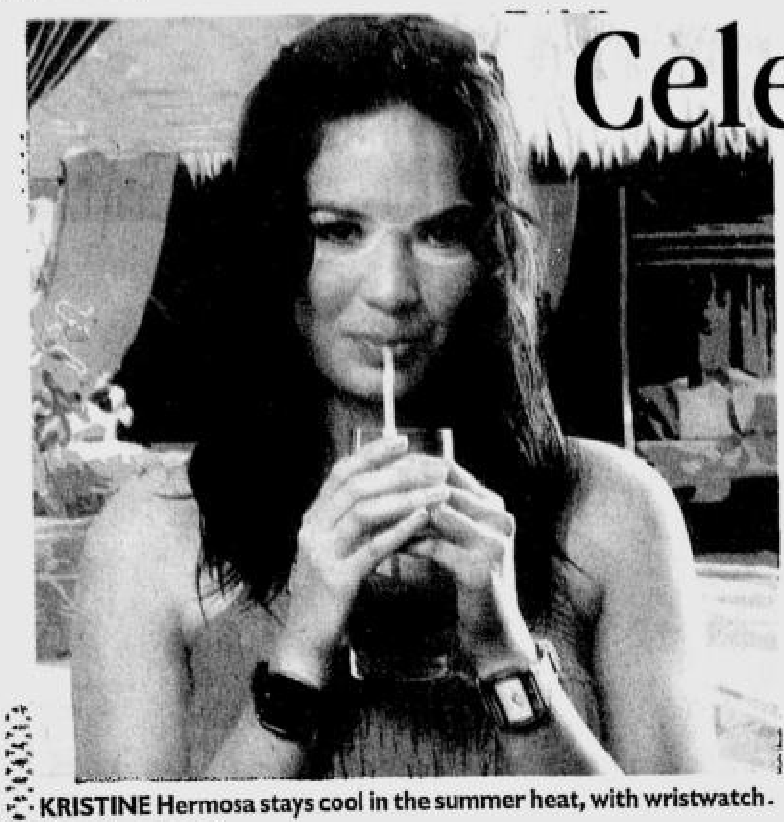
Celebrity choices



KRISTINE Hermosa stays cool in the summer heat, with wristwatch from Time Depot.

POPULAR celebrities Diether Ocampo, Bernard Palanca, Jericho Rosales, Kristine Hermosa and Bea Alonzo hit the summer trail with casual lifestyle watches from Time Depot.

The store carries a wide assortment of timepieces with innovative designs, quality materials and sophisticated movements to suit the stars' differing needs.

Ocampo, Palanca, Rosales, Hermosa and Alonzo want quality gear they can rely on whatever activities they engage in this summer.

Ocampo prefers Suunto or Nautica when he plans to go sailing and Casio Pathfinder or Casio Edifice for a day that involves a visit to the gym, keeping track of his businesses and an evening wijamming with his rock band.

Hermosa prefers timepieces that are simple but elegant to go with her favorite jeans, shirts, rubber shoes or slippers.

Rosales, who likes surfing and photography, goes for the comfort and style that Nautica offers. Palanca, on the other hand, prefers a watch built for rough handling but looks good on the wrist, like Casio G-Shock.

For Alonzo, Baby-G is a reasonably priced sports watch with great looks and features.

Check out the celebrities' choices at Time Depot in Rockwell (Makati), Robinson's Place (Manila) Shangri-La Plaza Mall (Mandaluyong City), Festival Supermall (Alabang, Muntinlupa), SM North Edsa Annex, SM Fairview, SM Bicutan, SM Pampanga and SM Davao.

DIETHER Ocampo gears up for outdoor fun. He prefers sporty timepieces like Casio Edifice steel chrono and Nautica.

JERICHO Rosales is all set to catch the waves with quality gear, like wristwatch by Nautica. The lightweight, durable timepiece is ideal for an outdoorsy type.

BEA Alonzo likes the colorful and fun designs of Casio Baby-G.

BERNARD Palanca dons a Casio G-Shock timepiece built for rough handling but looks great on the wrist.

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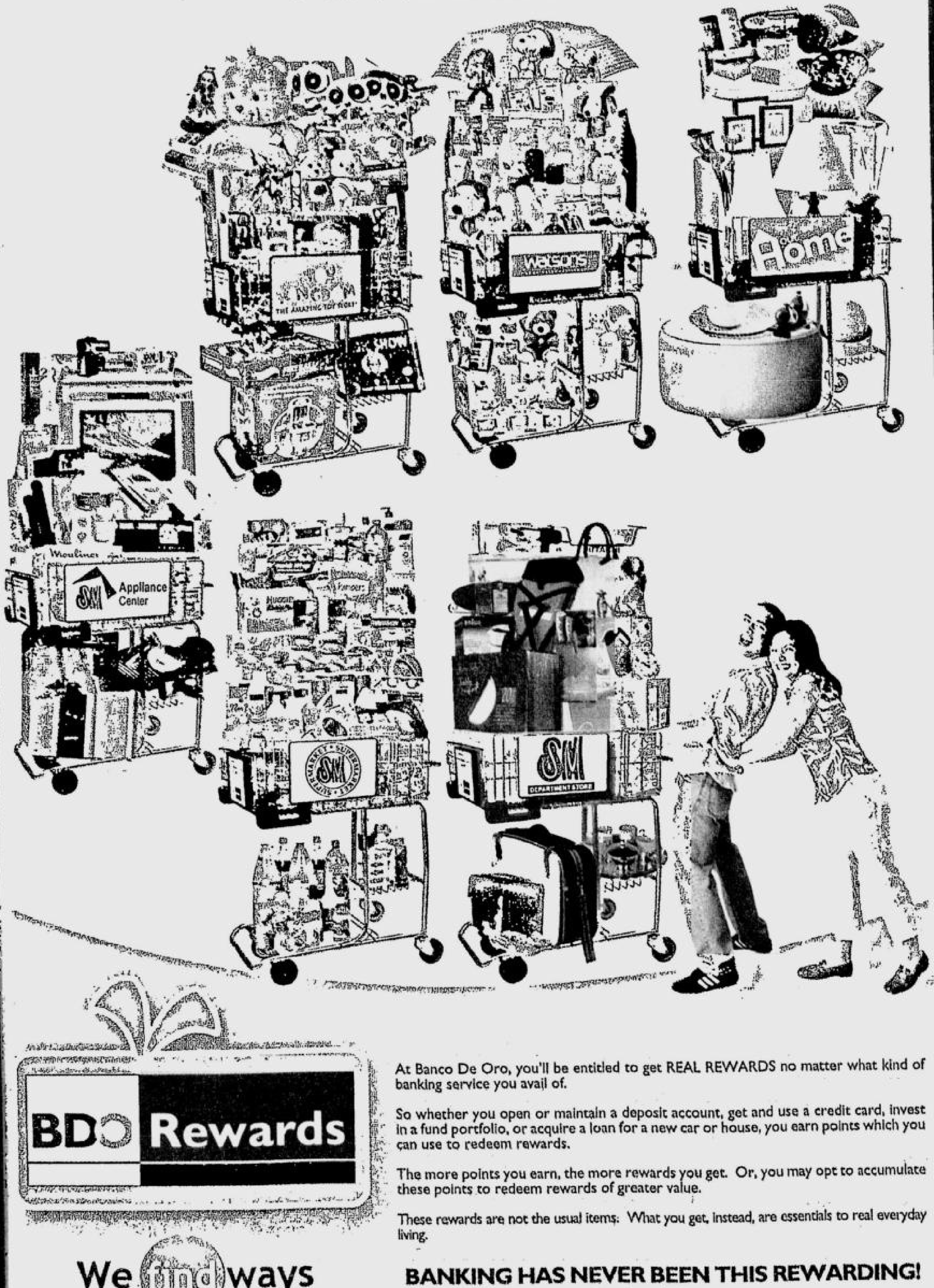

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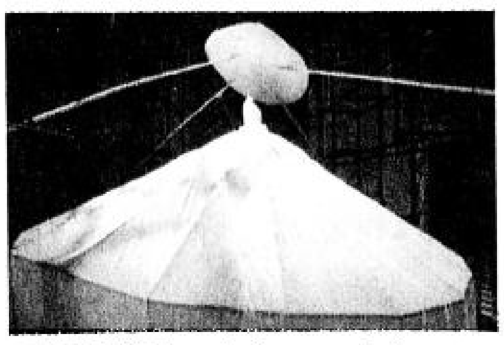

A WEDDING dress by Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto of his 1998-1999 spring-summer collection; (left) outfits designed by Yamamoto on exhibit at the Fashion and Textile Museum in Paris. AFP

RETROSPECTIVE. Some of the clothes created by Yamamoto over the past decades AFP

The chaos, clutter and charm of Yohji Yamamoto's world

From page C1

ing wide collars, round sleeves and stitched button holes, the modern version is not easily distinguishable from its older cousin.

"I've always had a sense of jealousy about vintage clothing, or second-hand clothing, or uniforms. They are perfect because time made them change," Yamamoto tells Belgian publication A Magazine, which serves as a catalogue for the exhibition.

"If I could make a collection to show the passing of time, I would be very happy, because old clothes are always newly designed. Designing time is my dream," he adds.

Upstairs, visitors can see, and exceptionally feel for themselves, some of the designs created over the past decades—except those from the 1980s as Yamamoto failed to keep any and proud owners are hanging on to theirs.

Guards will make sure that no one tries to deliberately damage the clothes, but otherwise visitors are free to examine up close and personal outfits which remain out of the price range of most people.

Gambler

Asked whether Yamamoto was worried about his designs being ruined, Ours said: "He's a gambler, he likes to take risks."

The devil is in the details, perfect stitching and careful cuts to make bright, fluid kimono dresses that flow with ease, or coats with hems that hang in wide, curvaceous frills.

Also on show are some of the designer's most flamboyant designs, wooden dresses, pinocchio trousers, blow-up skirts, as well as models which were finished but never put on show.

The exhibition is rounded out with videos of all Yamamoto's 49 collections, as well as little-known shows, such as when he dressed a band of gypsy musicians.

Some of the clothes were displayed in Florence earlier this year, but this is the first to recreate the designer's workshop.

"Juste des Vetements" is at the Musee de la Mode, 107-111 rue de Rivoli, until August 28.

AFP

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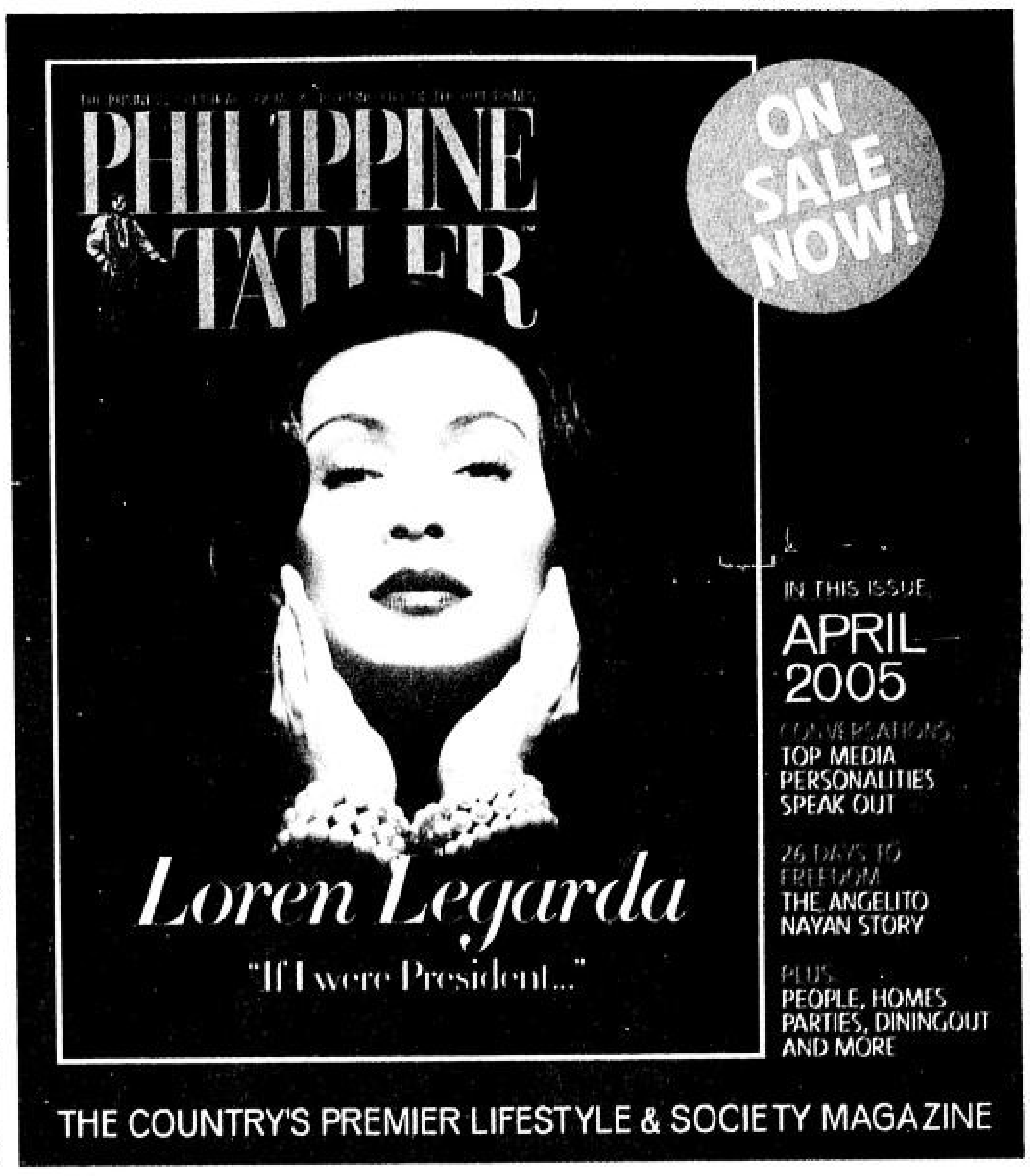

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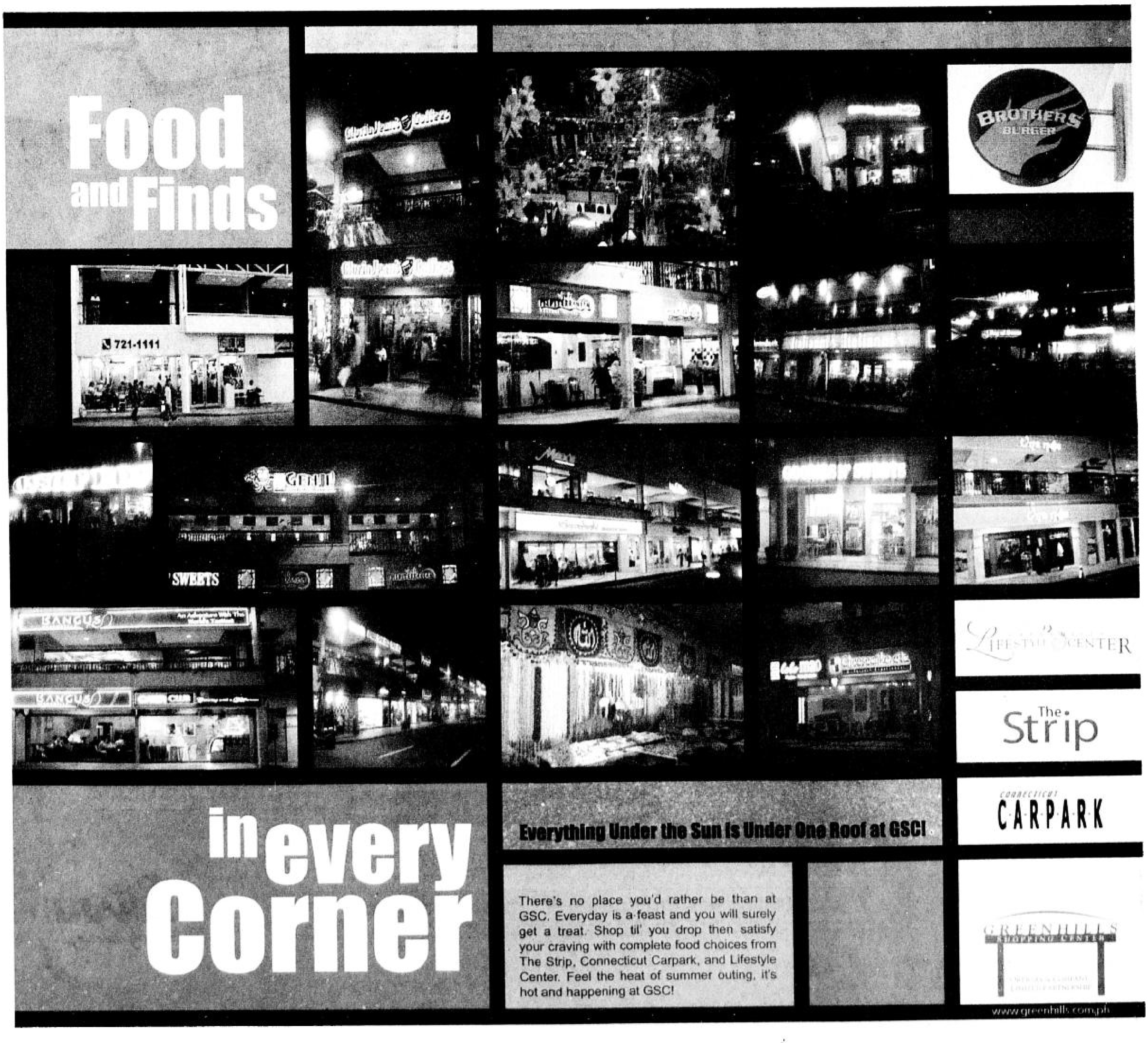

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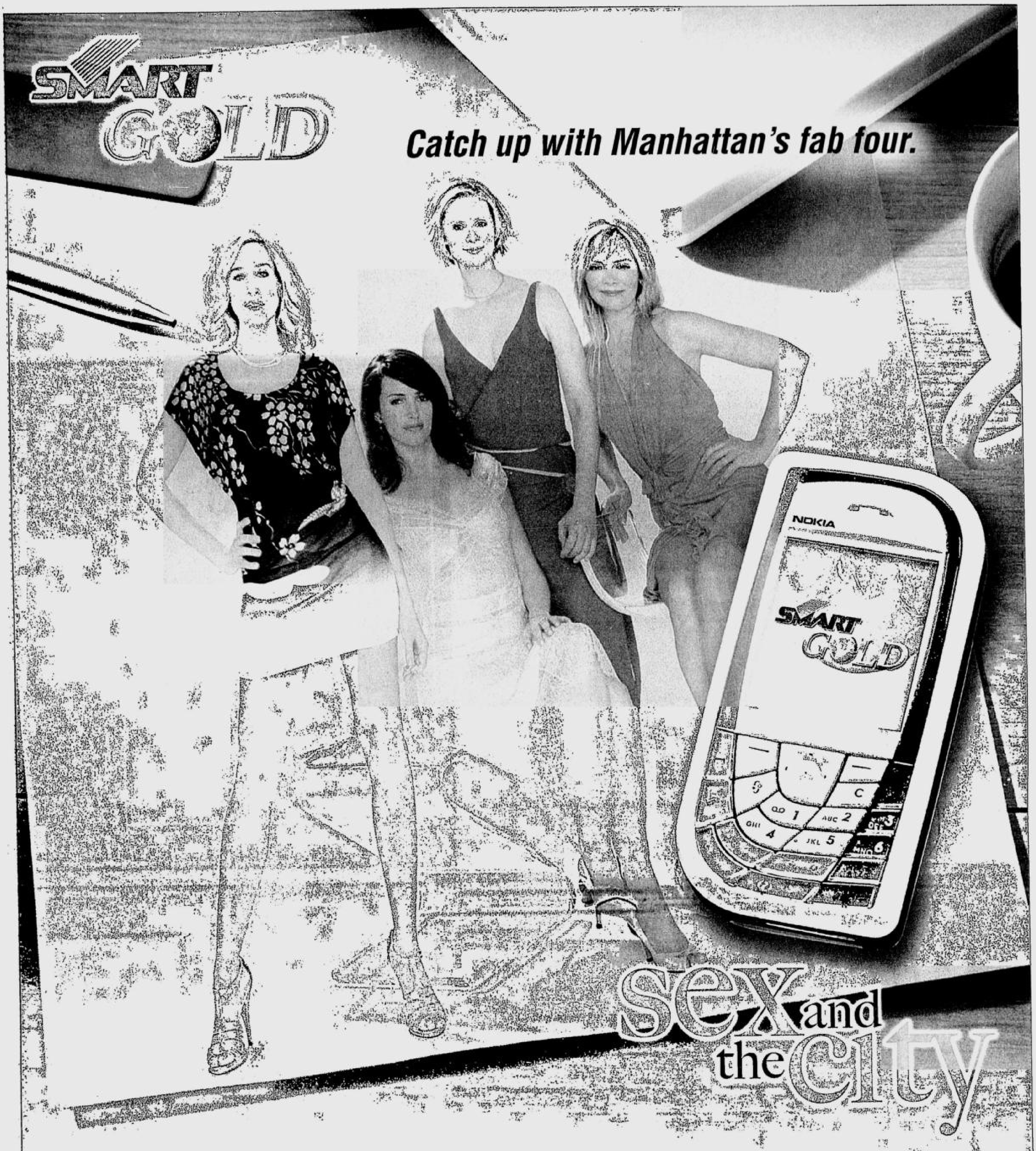

SMART Gold brings back Carrie, Charlotte, Miranda, and Samantha in its Sex and the City promo.

All activations for Plans 500 and up – availed at designated SMART Wireless Centers (SMART Tower Ayala or Shangri-La Plaza Mall) – come with a 20% Discount Voucher* which can be used to purchase a Sex and the City VCD or DVD set.

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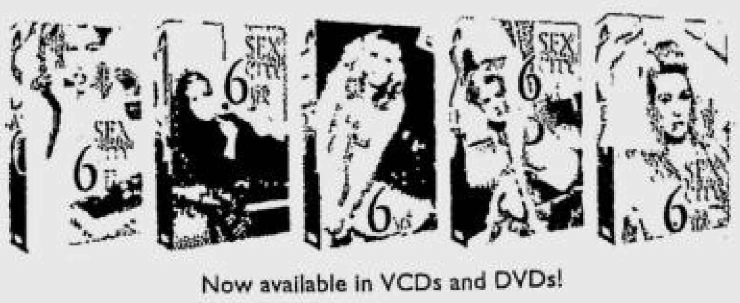
*Present discount voucher at any Odyssey or Astrovision store to avail of promo.



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Promo period is from March 12 to April 30, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1433, Series of 2005.

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Bootylicious	Destiny's Child	bootylicious
Respect	Aretha Franklin	respect
I'm Every Woman	Chaka Khan	mevrywoman

Promo period is from March 12 to April 30, 2005.
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SOCIETY
of the
Most Stylish Women

A TOAST to the maiden issue of Tatler's Society magazine in the Philippines

SOUTHERN ROYALS. World traveler Edouard Garcia and his mother, grand dame of Bacolod, Nena Lacson vda. de Garcia, with Bibing Villanueva (right) and Asia's king of fashion, Pitoy Moreno

TATLER'S society and lifestyle editor, *moi*, INQUIRER's grand lady of substance, Marixi Rufino-Prieto with First Daughter Luli Arroyo and Tatler's editor in chief Anton San Diego

Must-read for Manila's exclusive set launched

IT WAS definitely the most sought after ticket of the week. That classy, chic magazine that took the country by storm three years ago, the Philippine Tatler, unveiled the much talked about publication of the year, Society, at the grand lobby of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The elegant cocktail was hosted by Philippine Tatler's mega publisher and woman of substance, **Irene Martel-Francisco**, together with editor in chief **Anton San Diego**, and the society and lifestyle editor, who is yours truly.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Joining us were the Tatler Group's mega chair, Mr. Charmer himself, Dr. **Boya Mohindar**, and Asian Tatler's brilliant publisher, elegant, eye-catching **Lina Mohindar**, no less, who spearheaded the production of the society publications for over two decades all over Asia, darlings.

Getting the much-coveted cover spot were three of Asia's most stylish women, drawn from a fab list of the most fashionable from Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea and, *naturellement*, the Philippines, represented by top style icon, and one of the most dramatic, eye-catching models on the ramp, former super mannequin **Tina Maristela-Ocampo**.

Classy

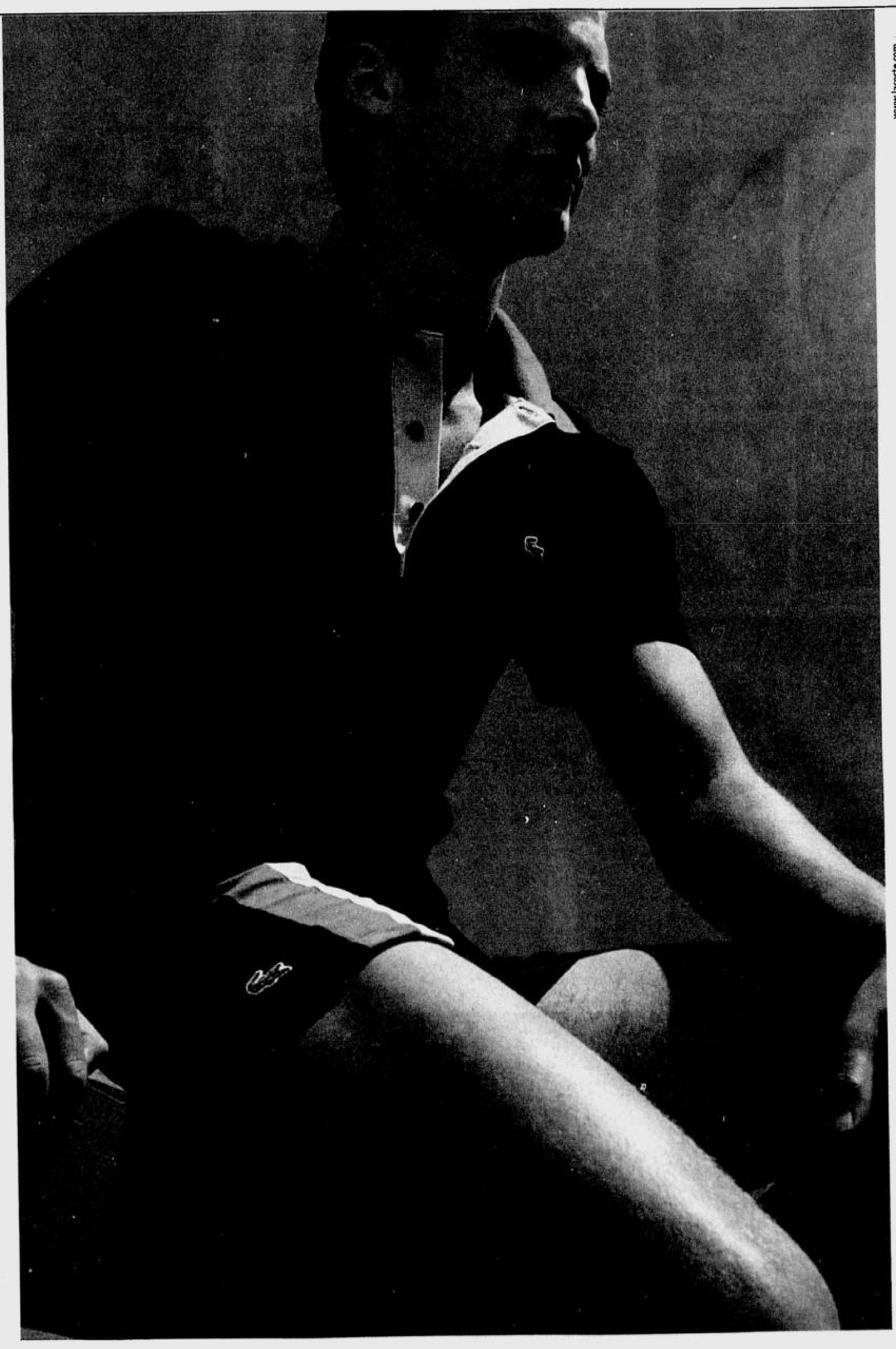
As you entered the hotel, you immediately admired the classy look superbly done by Mabolo's artistic **Antonio Garcia**. Calla lilies blended beautifully with lush violets and flickering candles were placed all around. Elegant candelabras lent an air of mystery to the ultra-sophisticated gathering.

As in all Philippine Tatler events, *palanggas*, the invitees included Cosmo Manille's 400 most prestigious and elusive elite set, including BMW's Dr. **Joerg Breuer**, with his fiancee, **Gina Vartou**; Hong Kong and Shang hai Bank Corporation's **Laine Santana**; Shangri-La Properties' dashing **Tom Zita**; the

MUST-READ/ D2

ABOUT to be mama and papa again. Tessa Prieto Valdes with husband Dennis Valdes, who is still recuperating from a helicopter crash

THE PRINCE of alta moda, Inno Sotto, with one of his favorite clients and pai, Carla Reyes-Tengco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JETTING in from Cebu. Business magnate Michel Lhuillier and wife, stylish Amparito Llamas

WOMEN ACHIEVERS. Joanna Preysler and Marissa Orosa Concepcion

TATLER'S best dressed. Bea Valdes and Sigalit Djemal

YOUNG and beautiful. Bianca Zobel and Christine Villanueva

CHLOE Romulo and husband José Periquet Sr. with business magnate José Cuisia

FABULOUS flamenco dancers. Nino and Isaac delos Reyes with their mother, Clara Ramona

GANG OF THREE. Ricco Ocampo, Loren Legarda and Tina Maristela Ocampo

LADIES of class. Mons Romulo-Tantoco, Kit Silverio-Zobel and rock star and rave gal, glamorous Vicky Fernandez-Zubiri

YES, CHEESE! Tessie Luz, Emily Lopez and Ching Montinola

Must-read . . .

From page D1

elusive business magnate **Joey Concepcion** and his eye-catching, attractive wife **Marissa Orosa**; Bulgari's **Mario Katigbak**; forever chic **Crickette Tantoco**; vibrant world traveler **Josephine Knox**; the popular Silk Cocoon's mother-daughter designer team, **Jeannie** and **Katrina Goulbourn**; Century's **Joey Antonio** and wife **Hilda**; Smart Infinity's bachelor on the loose, **Tom Valderama**; elegant, brilliant Southern woman, **Kim Camacho**; hostess par excellance, **Mellie Ablaza**, with **Reena Hechanova Angeles**; **Joyce Oreña**; BMW's **Lito German** with wife **Ditas**; **Francis** and **Maryann Lumen**; classy **Celine Lopez** and her gang of young, hip fashionistas; **Beth Day Romulo**; **Maryanne** and **Tina Tinio**; Makati Shangri-La's smart secret weapon, **Joy Wassmer**; **Missy Ayala**; top gourmet **Lucille Carlo**; the diplomatic pack, plus so many others who were just as beautiful.

As everyone nibbled on the wide selection of cheese, canapes of garnished smoked salmon rolls, goat cheese tarts, delectable swirled parma ham with olive accent were also offered. Veuve Cliquot champagne and the Philippine Tatler's signature "dirty martini" were served endlessly.

Flamenco dancers

Providing musical background was a 20-piece orchestra conducted by critically acclaimed **Bernie Pasamba**. The program started with **Anton San Diego** welcoming everyone and introducing two young magnetic brothers from Spain, **Isaac** and **Nino de los Reyes**, who knocked the socks off the audience with their energetic and sensual Flamenco performance. Wow!

The entrance of the country's one and only Doña, "Doña Buding", had the invitees laughing. Not only was **Nanette Inventor** dressed for the part, she also did a hilarious parody of Manille's elite.

Après, the maiden issue of the new publication, appropriately called Society, was formally launched. It has super interesting features including, "The 100 People You Must Know in Asia," "The List, The Essential Register of Philippine High Society," a feature on the year's best gowns and best parties, an intriguing photo essay on "Crimes of Fashion," and "What's Hot in 2005."

Dubbed as "The Essential Guide to the Social Season," as always, *palanggas*, Philippine Tatler showcases The Best of the Best in this must-have maiden issue!

For those who are not in the know, though Society is being published for the first time in the Philippines, the annual publication already has a two-decade history of chronicling the most prominent people in other parts of Asia and the rest of the globe. Society is another publication of the Tatler group.

Philippine Tatler's Society was done in cooperation with close partners Smart Infinity, BMW, Veuve Cliquot Champagne, La Mer, which provided all the women in the Tatler list special gift packages; Essenses and Sony Ericsson.

SHANGRI-LA Makati Hotel's irreplaceable GM, popular Jarlath Lynch, with HSBC's first couple, Julie and Warner Manning

TATLER'S mega publisher and prime inspiration, Irene Martel-Francisco

CHUCHU Madrigal Eduque has several charity project

HOT SHOTS. Cesar Virtusio and Vince Carlos

ADORABLE French Ambassador Renée Veyret, flanked by Junie and Fern Peña

WOMEN of stature. Diana Jean Lopez, Nikki Prieto-Cojuangco and Nedy Tantoco

WORKING heiress Doris Magsaysay-Ho

STYLISH WOMEN. Jeannie Goulbourn of Silk Cocoon, Libet Cu-Unjieng Virata, Bettina Lopez-Osmeña and Francis Lim

CIVIC-ORIENTED personas who care. International RTW couturier Bobby Novenario with social workers Nini Licaros, Fe Rodriguez, Nene Leonor, Justa Tantoco, Helen Ong and Evie Costa

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WOW! BEAT THE HEAT!

Fresh for less

APRIL 15 - 28, 2005

FRESH PICK OF THE WEEK

PINEAPPLE HAWAIIAN (REGULAR) P18*/piece

PUREFOODS Supermanok Fresh Wings P105.50*/kg

[illegible] Cookies N' Cream 1/2gal P170*each

WATERMELON (Seedless) (Not available in Tutuban) P28*/kg

[illegible] (Good Savers) P110*/kg

SIR DINKS Molo Wanton Wrapper 280g P16.50*each

[illegible] (Not available in Tutuban) P8*/kg

[illegible] Bibbo Hotdog w/ Inu-Fiber (Regular) 1kg P134*/pack

WALTER Thick Slice Super Loaf P38.50*/pack

[illegible] Lapad 200g P26*/pack

* Items & prices not applicable in Visayas and Mindanao

TANG Lemon Iced Tea

P10 each Litro Pack 45g

P37.20 pack 9g (12's)

HOT BUY

ENSURE Chocolate Flavor w/ Fiber

ENSURE Vanilla Flavor w/ Fiber

P1,107 1kg

P475 400g

P1,107 1kg

P475 400g

SISTERS Net Side Night Use (8's) P17.75 pack

SISTERS Silk Floss Day Use (8's) P16.75 pack

P5.75 each SUMMIT Natural Drinking Water 350ml

P27.70 each COCA-COLA (Regular) 1.5L

P129.75 each BLOCK & WHITE Radiance Whitening Lotion (SPF 20) 200ml

P199.75 each WEE WEE CARE Diapers Large (26's)

P702.75 each PROMIL KID ProGifted Formula Stage 3 (1.6kg)

P9.50 each FRITO LAY Italian-Style Cheese & Garlic (35g)

P5.25 each NISSIN Yakisoba Savory Beef (60g)

P27.70 each SPRITE (Regular) 1.5L

P199.75 each WEE WEE CARE Diapers XL (22's)

P28.50 each BLOCK & WHITE Radiance Whitening Soap 120g

P107 each SEASONS Fruit Mix 3.06kg

P13.55 each COCA-COLA Light (In can) 330ml

P297.25 each BONAKID Growing Up Milk 1kg

P4.75 each CHEETOS Twisted Cheezey Blitz (20g)

P5.25 each NISSIN Yakisoba Soymansi (60g)

P99.75 each BLOCK & WHITE Green Papaya Lotion (200ml)

P27.70 each ROYAL Tru Orange 1.5L

P10.75 each CDO Liver Spread 85g

P13.55 each COCA-COLA Regular (In can) 330ml

P37.25 each DOLE Pineapple Juice 1.36L

P55 each ABSOLUTE Distilled Water 6L

P23.75 each CDO Nata de Coco (Coconut Gel) 12oz

PER DTI - NCR PERMIT #1959 SERIES OF 2005

GREAT FAMILY summer adventure

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- Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Circle C Center, Congressional
- Malabon Citisquare
- Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
- Nepo Mall Dagupan
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches
- Berkeley Square, Commonwealth

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Text **8MCDO REG <name>/<landline>/<delivery address>** to **6236**.
Registration is FREE.

8MCDO A/4
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To place a single order:
Text **8MCDO <menu choice>/<quantity>** to **6236**.

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PAY GCASH
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To confirm/pay order via G-Cash:
Text **8MCDO PAY GCASH** to **6236**.

There is a minimum P150 delivery purchase.

8MCDO
Ok Back

To download the menu:
Text **8MCDO** to **6236**.

Note: Save this text for future orders.

8MCDO A/3/B/3
Ok Back

To place multiple orders:
Text **8MCDO <menu choice>/<quantity>/<menu choice>/<quantity>** to **6236**.

Rate: P2.50 per transaction to 6236
Note: McDonald's deliveries can also be paid using cash.

Register to G-Cash by texting G-CASH to 2882.

Get 1 large McDonald's fries FREE with every CALL OR TEXT delivery order using G-Cash!

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Promo runs from March 19 to April 19, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1307, Series of 2005.

TOM Ford is back /G1

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Cosmetics shopping made easier

By Kinny D. Salas

WHEN I think about all the failed skincare products I have bought for the past 20 years, I get seriously depressed because when I add it all up, I can actually buy myself a nice four-wheel drive today.

Through the sponsorship of Céleteque, the fastest rising local skin-care brand for sensitive skin, a one-on-one interview with Dr. Clarissa Villarama-Cellona, the only dermatopharmacologist and dermatotoxicologist in the Philippines, was arranged for me.

Thanks to her, a lot of people, with sensitive skin or not, will be saving money in the long run when it comes to skin-care shopping. Things that seem basic like cleansers and moisturizers are actually more complicated than you think. Dr. Villarama-Cellona urges us to read the labels and watch out for the following ingredients.

Cleansers: Surfactants (Surface Active Agents) are substances that aid in removing dirt. Anionic surfactants are common major components, especially for oily skin facial wash because they are degreasers and give a lot of foam but cause skin irritation for most people. SLS (Sodium Lauryl Sulfate), SLES (Sodium Laureth Sulfate), TELS (Trithanolamine Lauryl Sulfate), LAPB (Laurylamidopropylbetaine), ALS (Ammonium Lauryl Sulfate) and SCI (Sodium Cocoyl Isethinate) are among them.

Dr. Cellona recommends choosing cleansers with a pH level of 4-7 because these are less likely to irritate skin. She also recommends cleansers with hygroscopic agents which draw in moisture from the dermis to avoid facial skin dryness. Examples of these are lactates, urea and glycerin.

Emollient-additives supplement natural moisturizers that are removed during the wash. Examples of these are glycerin, soybean oils, ceramides and petrolatum. Take the words "hypoallergenic" and "dermatologically tested" as factors to make your choices.

Céleteque
Facial Wash
Céleteque
Facial Wash
Céleteque
Facial Wash
Celeteque
Facial Wash
Céleteque
Facial Moisturizer
Céleteque

CÉLETEQUE is the fastest-rising local skincare brand for sensitive skin.

Moisturizer shopping

The weather in the Philippines causes everyone to dehydrate, so Cellona urges Filipinas to look for ingredients with maximum hydration. These are: 1) Humectants or agents that draw water from the dermis. Examples are urea, glycerin, vitamins like Pro Vitamin B5 or D- Panthenol, sodium lactates and honey. And 2) Occlusives like phospholipids, petrolatum and fatty acids. These prevent evaporation of water from the skin by locking moisture in.

So the moral of the story is to take time out to read the labels. Some of you may find it bothersome, but it is a very small price to pay. You will be saved from financial grief as a result of buying tons of useless or harmful products and racking up dermatologist's bills.

LUSH
SANDSTONE

SANDSTONE soap

More than meets the eye

SOME of Lush's fresh, handmade cosmetics actually have uses other than what it says on their labels.

While designed for some specific functions, other benefits and uses have been discovered for these products:

Sandstone soap (P175 for 100g)—The sunny and warm citrus soap results in a refreshing, rejuvenating wash. But the sand topping also makes it an exfoliator that leaves the skin tingling and gets the circulation going, helping eliminate cellulite and dimply bits. Brazilian women have long used sand for exfoliating, rubbing it down their body, as they lie on the beach of Ipanema.

Among the celebrities who use the soap is Tyra Banks.

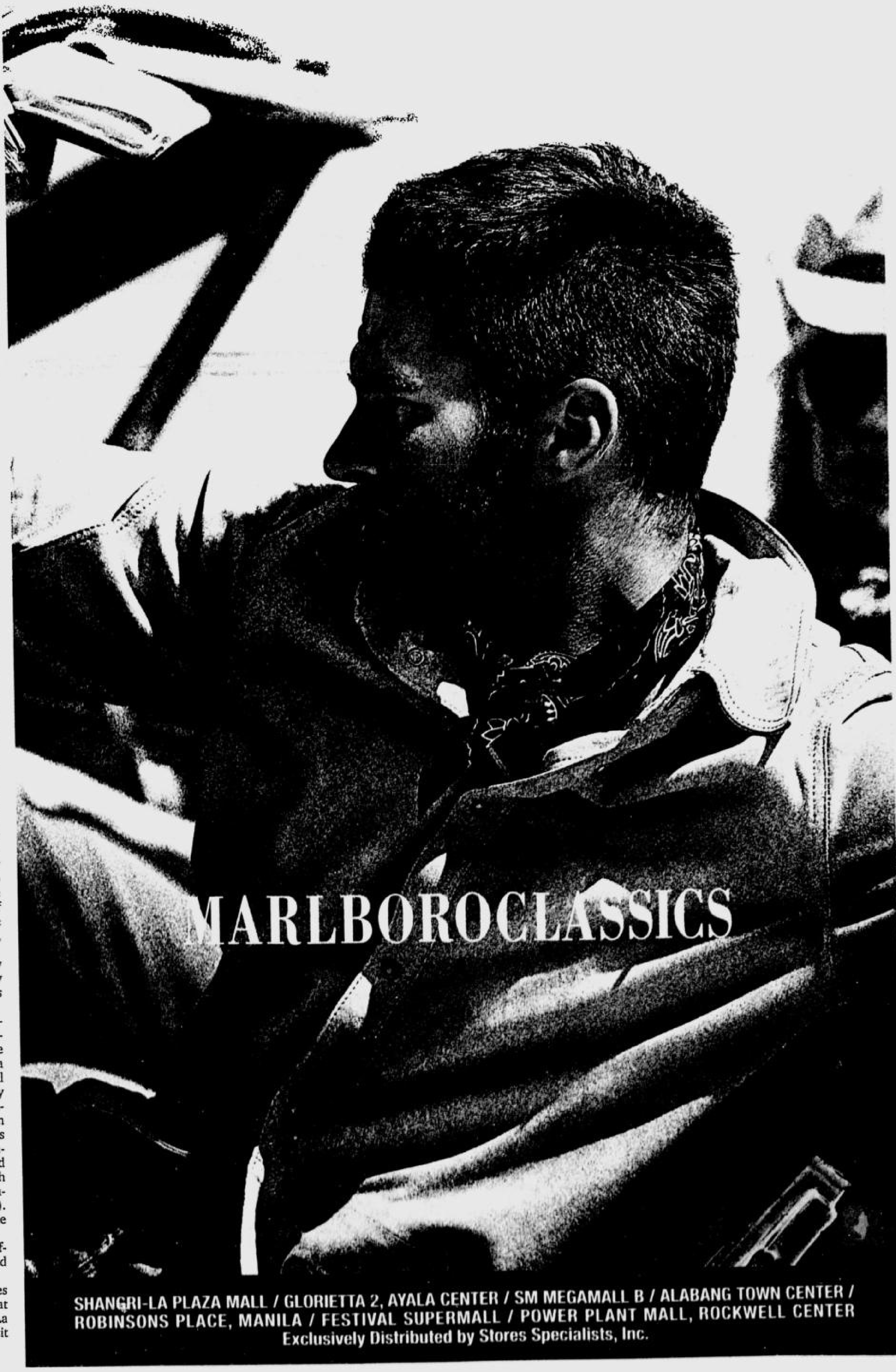
Lush Lip Service (P325)—The many ingredients of the original lip balm from Lush have been found to have other uses as well. The balm's moisturizing ingredients, like Fair Trade cocoa butter, shea butter, olive oil, apricot kernel oil and healing beeswax, primarily soften the skin, leaving a moist film to help protect. But the softening ingredients have been found to help improve the condition of nails, particularly the cuticles. So, Lip Service does not only give you soft lips but great nails, too.

Celebrity users of the product include Liv Tyler, Helena Christensen, Billy Zane, Boy George, Paul McCartney and Heather Mills McCartney.

Cosmetic Lad moisturizer (P595)—A moisturizer for men, the multi-purpose cream contains skin softening shea butter and Fair Trade cocoa butter blended with soothing aloe vera gel. It is ideal as an aftershave balm to heal sore skin. Cosmetic Lad is a calming remedy that replenishes moisture lost because of alcohol consumption or late nights that can cause skin dehydration. It also contains soothing, balancing and healing lavender water, chamomile, marigold and cold-pressed virgin almond oil, as well as vitamin-rich wheatgrass, making it a great remedy for itching and redness (often caused by shaving). The calming and soothing ingredients make Cosmetic Lad an effective after-sun soother.

Men who have used the product as an aftershave balm found that it can also be used as a hair cream to make styling easier.

Lush is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. Lush boutiques are located at Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Mall and Greenbelt 3. Visit www.lush.com.ph.



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A beauty queen twice over

Bb Pilipinas
INTERNATIONAL
Bb Pilipinas
UNIVERSE
WORLD 2004

PASSING on the crown. Binibining Pilipinas-International 2004 Maan Bayot, Bb. Pilipinas-Universe 2004 Maricar Balagtas, and Bb. Pilipinas-World 2004 Karla Bautista

CARLENE Aguilar, who was named Binibining Pilipinas-World during the recent 2005 Bb. Pilipinas Coronation Night at the Araneta Coliseum, also earned the title Bb. Avon Color.

Avon Color brand manager Joanna Gilladoga presented the winner the Bb. Avon Color sash and bouquet. The title was bestowed on the candidate who best projected the beauty and grace that the cosmetic brand wanted to bring out in a woman. Avon, the global beauty company, was a major sponsor of the Philippines' most prestigious beauty pageant, helping transform shy, unassuming young contestants into classy, confident women.

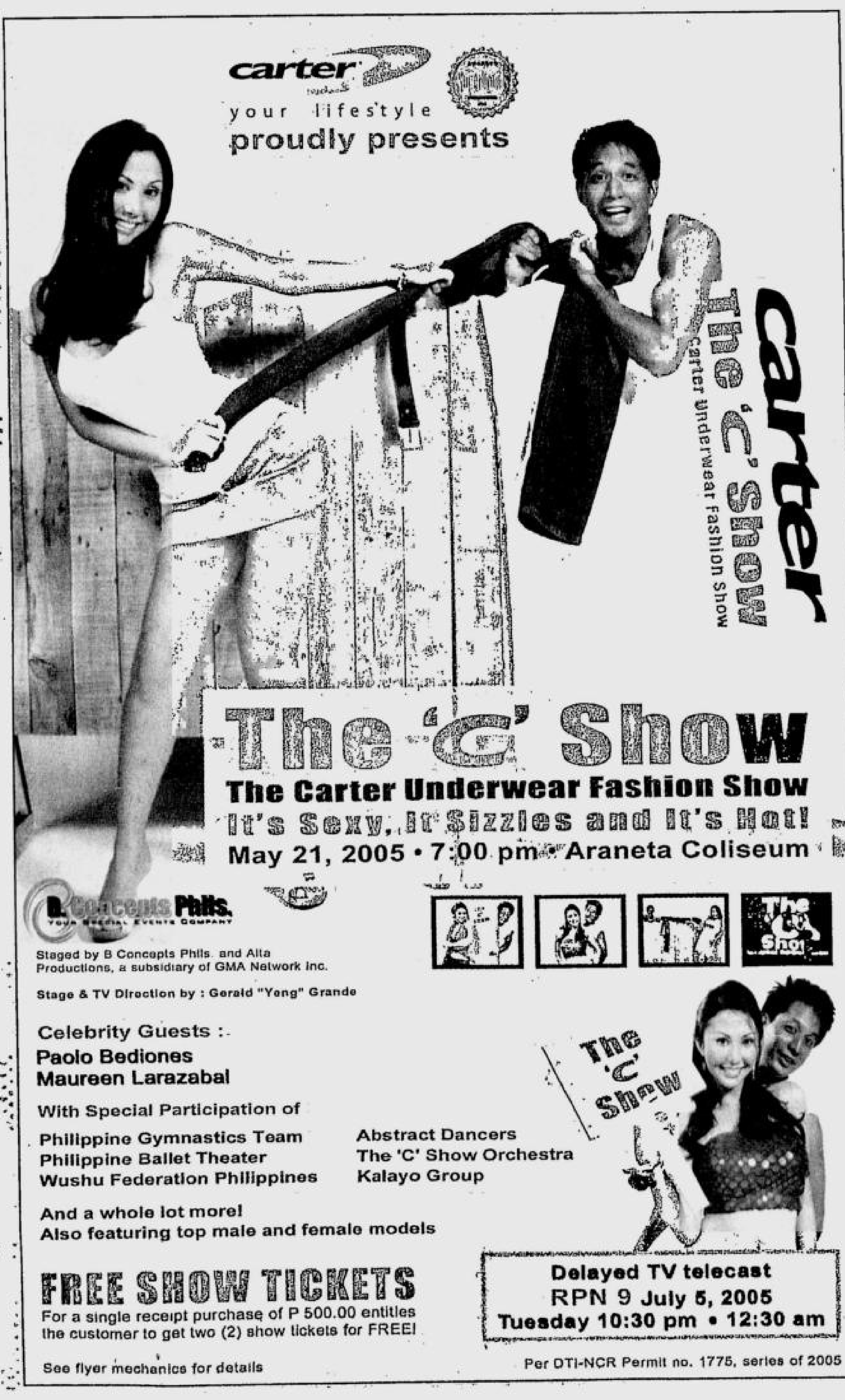
Aside from Aguilar, this year's winners were Precious Lara Quigaman, Bb. Pilipinas-International; and Gionna Cabrera, Bb. Pilipinas Universe.

Avon Philippines has been a Bb. Pilipinas partner for more than 15 years now. This year, the company for women provided contestants Avon Color products formulated with its exclusive technology to suit every skin color and type and facial feature.

This year's winners will soon be competing in international beauty pageants abroad.

2004 Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Maricar Balagtas enjoys an Avon Color makeup retouch before her farewell walk.

GROUP manager Alice Orleans, Avon coordinator Rochelle Dalton, and marketing manager Christine Eugenio congratulate Bb.Pilipinas-World Carlene Aguilar for winning as Bb. Avon Color.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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1775, series of 2005

The "C" Show
The Carter Underwear Fashion Show

Get 2 tickets for every P500 worth of purchase of CARTER products at participating department stores in Metro Manila only.

May 21, 2005- Saturday, 7:00 pm, Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City. Sexy, Entertaining, Highly Creative and Trendsetting - best describe the "C" Show.

A very unique way of showcasing underwear products, executed in an unconventional fashion show presentation. Segments are thematic for variety and better appreciation of the show. Not just sexy bodies but entertaining and visually exciting presentation.

Special Production Numbers from the Philippine Gymnastic Team, Kalayo Group, Abstract Dancer, Philippine Ballet Theater, Wushu Federation of the Philippines and some of the Country's Top Performers will highlight the program. Some parts of the show will have live music accompaniment from top artists of the Philippine music industry.

Aside from the industry's top professional models, the show will feature celebrity guests, like Starstruck winners, Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado, Viva Hot Babes: Andrea Del Rosario, Gwen Garci and Jen Rosandhal, Viva Hotmen led by Allen Dizon and the sexy Maureen Larazabal in special production show segments. Plus, other special surprise guests and other well-known personalities will surely add excitement to this special show at the **Big Dome on May 21, 2005.**

To get **2 FREE Show Tickets** to see the show, loyal Carter customers must buy **P500.00** worth of Carter products and they must present the official receipts to any assigned sales ladies at the Carter underwear selling area of leading department stores in Metro Manila.

Celebrity guests and professional models will be seen performing production numbers while displaying Carter products on the catwalk. Topping the long list of celebrity talents is the newest Carter endorser. He is the very popular, talented and most sought after male celebrity, **Mr. Paolo Bediones. Mainstay of top-rating programs, S Files and Extra Challenge, Paolo is one of TV's most well-loved personalities. Though very mysterious, this showbiz celebrity basks in the limelight but at the same time seems to be repulsed by it... fiercely protective of his privacy.**

Paolo is expected to excite the audience at the Big Dome with his buffed physique. Being the newest celebrity endorser, Carter encouraged Paolo to stay in good shape. And now Paolo promises that "The 'C' Show" will set another trend in underwear fashion shows.

"I can't divulge what I will do in the show but it will definitely be one of my daring feats," he smiles. "If you've always seen Paolo serious on "Extra Challenge" and having fun on "S-Files", people will see a different side of me in this fashion show. It is something I seldom reveal and I guess it's time that people see the result of my past months training. It's going to be a big, big surprise to everyone."

Paolo says "The 'C' Show" is far from ordinary. "This fashion event will be different because of its level of entertainment where you will see new faces and new bodies as they model Carter's latest line in undergarments."

The "C" Show was conceptualized, choreographed and directed by the equally talented and creative **Gerald "Yeng" Grande**, Video and Stage Director of Alta Productions Group, Inc. Photography by **Paul San Juan** of Print Mode and Fashion Styling by **Adel Francisco & Aries Cayabyab**. This event is staged by **B.Concepts Phils**. The advertising and marketing campaign was conceptualized by award-winning brand manager and creative director **Benz Jandoc**. For details of sponsorship, please call # 448-7871.

SHISEIDO
The Makeup

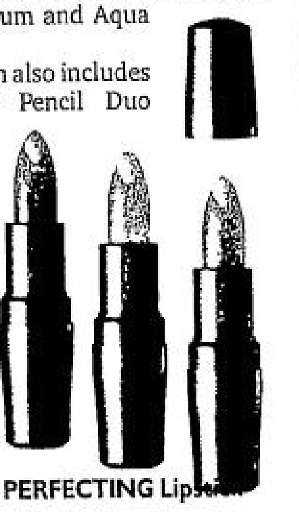
SHISEIDO Lip Gloss

HYDRO-POWER
Eye Shadows

Sassy summer makeup collection

SHISEIDO The Makeup captures a perfect summer day with its Spring/Summer Collection 2005: Liquid Sunshine.

Get that sexy splash of brilliance for your eyes with Shiseido's Hydro-Power Eye Shadow. Cool to the touch, a dewy sensation spreads shadow evenly over eyelids to keep color moist and lustrous for a long time. Individual pots of color look brilliant alone or in combination. Hydro-Power Eye Shadow comes in five colors: Goldlights, Whitelights, Tiger Eye, Spring Plum and Aqua Shimmer.



PERFECTING Lip

The new collection also includes Shiseido's Eyeliner Pencil Duo which is double tipped in contrasting colors that shimmer with a delicate pearl and dark brilliance. It draws on smoothly with a soft touch to keep color and texture fresh all day long. Its smudge-proof formula resists tears, perspiration, and oil for a lasting look. The Eyeliner Pencil Duo has three colors. Try Moonscape, an intense black with pearly shimmers of white and gold, double tipped with a metallic white pearl. Put on Desert Dusk, a duo of rich brown with golden pearl accents, and a shimmery beige with silky white and golden pearl texture. You can also use Electric Iris, deep purple accented with white and ruby pearl, paired with a delicate green that gleams in gold pearl.

For smooth shiny lips, use Shiseido's Lip Gloss line. Its delicate pearl shine adds a subtle sensuality from every angle, in any light. Long-lasting moistness combines with translucent colors that stay true without bleeding. Choose from Mango Passion, a juicy, fresh orange color as succulent as a tropical fruit; Red Coral, translucent coral that shines brilliantly as if soaked in the sun; and Pretty In Pink, clearly pink with luscious sheen.

Of course, the collection won't be complete without the Perfecting Lipstick, a long-lasting, multifunction lipstick that unites high-performance moisturizing ingredients and true color to create full, dimensional lips. The other hues are Brown Red, a reddish brown shade; Salmon Rose, a light pink shade with warmth of soft sunlight; and Nuance Rose, a translucent pink with a lustrous hint of blue.

Shiseido the Makeup Summer Collection 2005 is available at My Beauty Hub at 6750, Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Makati, SM Harrison Plaza, SM Cebu, Watson's The Podium, The Landmark, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, Shangri-La Mall, Greenhills The Shops and soon to open at Gateway Mall.

EYELINER
Pencil Duo

SHISEIDO
The Makeup
Liquid Sunshine

ladies wear
summer
cute
tie-dye tops
perfect for
a cool
summer look
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DAVAO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO

Revitalize the skin around your eyes

DID you know that the epidermis on most areas of your body is approximately .045 thick? But the skin around your eyes is even thinner at only .020 thick, which makes it delicate and more vulnerable to wrinkles and fine lines.

To revive the appearance of your eyes, give the skin surrounding them the special care it deserves. Nu Skin recently introduced Intensive Eye Complex—an exceptional skin care product that instantly hydrates and revitalizes the delicate skin around the eyes. Its key ingredients provide optimum results: 1) Brown seaweed, an intensive moisturizer enriched with amino acids and antioxidants, help soften the appearance of fine lines; 2) Coastal marine fennel, an antioxidant that scavenges free radicals resulting in an increased production of ceramides, an important feature for skin restoration; and 3) Essential fatty acids that help soothe and maintain the delicate lipid balance.

Nu Skin's Intensive Eye Complex is ideal for both women and men aged 25 years old and above, who are concerned about maintaining their moisture levels and dry skin around the eye area. For best results, use the product twice a day—in the morning and evening.

Nu Skin's Intensive Eye Complex is manufactured and marketed via person-to-person distribution by Nu Skin Enterprises, Inc. It is available locally through Nu Skin Philippines, Inc. Call 6890333 or log onto www.nuskin.com.ph

Slimming treatment at 50 percent off

BEAUTY Central Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center gives you the opportunity to show some skin and flaunt a beach worthy bod this summer.

Take the fast but safe route to achieving that sexy silhouette with Mesotheraphy, a non-invasive process that lets you shed those unwanted pounds without the risk of surgery and the hassle of a long winded recovery.

Mesotherapy is an area specific procedure that targets unwanted fat in different parts of the body. The process involves microinjections of vitamins and minerals to the mesoderm, the middle layer of the skin, using a Meso gun that allows the shots to be administered quickly and without most of the requisite pain involved when done manually. The procedure makes it possible to reduce cellulite, sculpt the body according to one's liking as well as rejuvenate the skin without going through the usual recovery period required by invasive procedures such as liposuction.

Clarity is giving clients a deal that will surely make this summer the best ever. Pick the procedure appropriate for you and let Clarity treat you to a 50-percent off promo on the initial session of Mesotherapy!

With three Mesotheraphy types, advanced technology and sophisticated procedures, Clarity experts will give you that slim, svelte body you've always longed for.

Visit any Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center and avail of the 50-percent off promo. Offer is valid until April 30.

Clarity's branches are located at Shangri-La Plaza Mall (9104955), SM City North Edsa (9269235), Robinson's Place Manila (5284547). Call 8923731/ 09178904929.

Hiyas ng Marikina crowned tomorrow

THE GRAND Coronation Night of the Hiyas ng Marikina will be held at 7 p.m., April 16, at the Teatro Marikina.

Representatives of 14 barangays are vying for the title. The winner will become the city's ambassador of goodwill.

The search for Hiyas ng Marikina is one of the activities of the first Ilognayan 2005, a river festival celebrating the 375th founding anniversary of the country's shoe capital.

The competition was organized by the Zonta Club of Marikina, in cooperation with the city government, the barangay, fashion and shoe designers, and hairdressers.

Participating fashion designers are Cora Manimbo, Vekart Adrao, Raymond Gonzales, Jess Siasoco, Cecille Bertumin, Lloyd Arceo, Ruel Rivera, Momcy Ambrocio, Pabling Buenaventura and Ariel Dulay. Hairdressers/make-up artists are Momcy, Techie, James of Perfection, Raul Marcelino, Frida, Jha-Jha, Emil Estanislao, Edwin Izurda and Pamela. Shoes will be provided by Figlia.

Through Hiyas ng Marikina 2005, the city hopes to encourage young women to get involved in the local government's various programs and activities and to serve as role models for the youth. The project also aims to raise funds for the Zonta Club of Marikina's projects designed to raise the status of the city's women.

Three winners will receive cash and other prizes plus a year-long contract with the tourism office as its ambassador of goodwill.

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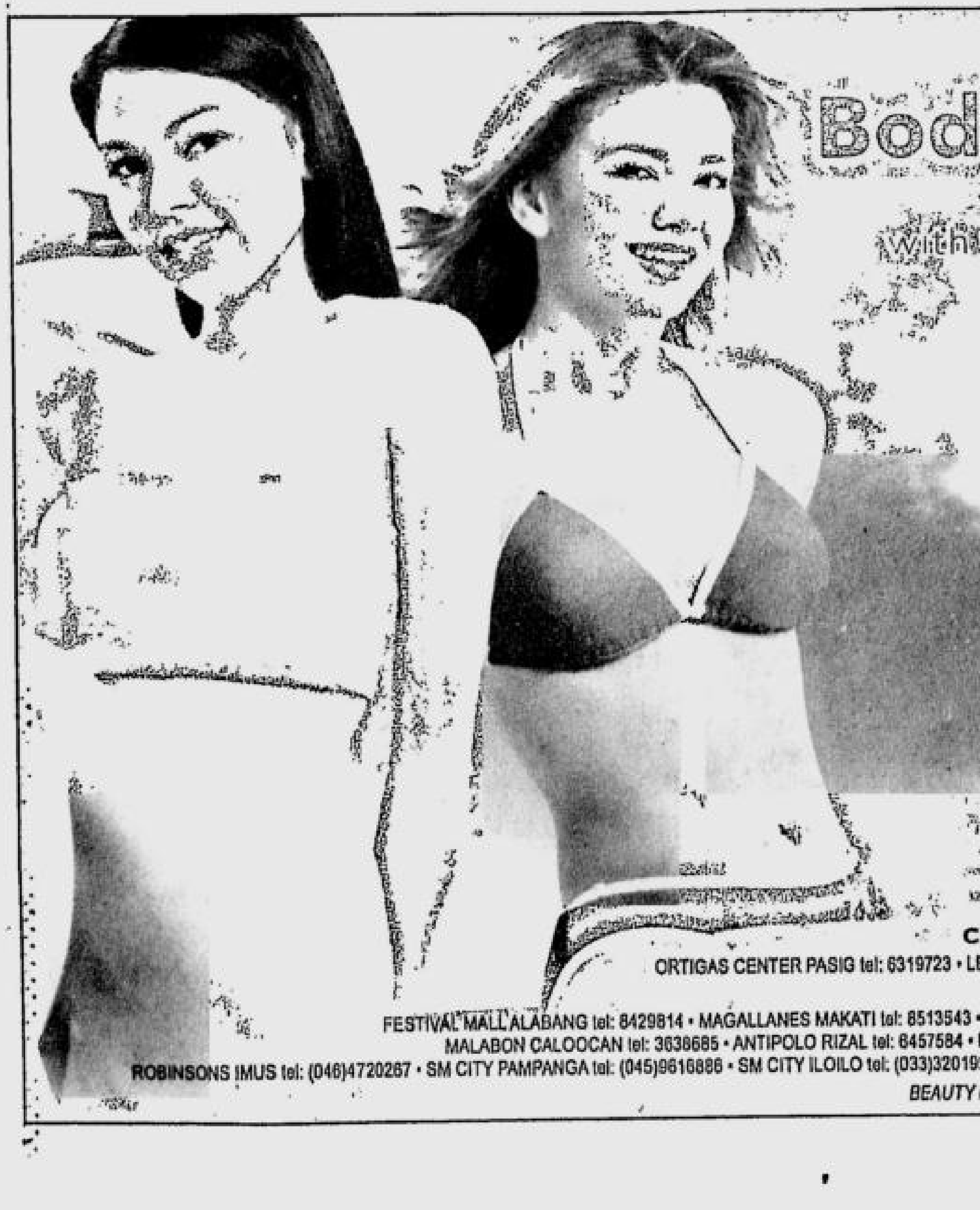

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Clem Poblete
Entrepreneur

My favorite shopping mecca is found in the district of Rue Reaumur, Paris. I was working a few years back when I stumbled upon it while dealing with another fashion house there. It has all the great prêt-a-porter designers. All their factories are located there. It's much like Via Condotti in Rome. Great finds without the great price tags!

Wendy Puyat-Hotung
Designer, Lily

I recently discovered Thai designers and found out during my last trip that many collections end up on the London runways! The pieces are very original and cutting-edge. My favorite buy is a dramatic beaded black top that when laid flat is actually two intricate butterflies cut out from the fabric.

Around the world on a shopping spree, Part 2

More of Manila's fashionable denizens talking about their favorite shopping haunts and fab finds abroad

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Email the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

AROUND/ F3

Brittany Corporation's Island Park

At home in a tropical paradise

Along Governor's Drive in Cavite, Island Park offers a distinct lifescape: a tropical paradise.

A 100-hectare luxury residential community of 7 island villages, Island Park offers wide-open space in a resort-like ambience. It's the perfect getaway from the stifling confines of urban living.

Inspired by famous tropical resorts, Island Park provides more room to roam, both in the homes and across the entire property.

The homes at Island Park are inspired by architecture from across the world's great tropical resorts.

Homes take design cues from Caribbean, Mediterranean, and South Pacific influences.

Presently, you can choose from single-family model homes that range from 176 sq.m. to 240 sq.m. in floor area. You can also choose custom home sites from 300 sq.m. to 700 sq.m. in lot area so you can create your own paradise home.

You have space to play at Paseo Park. The 2.7-hectare sports and leisure area will be landscaped to interweave the tropical greenery with basketball, tennis, and sand volleyball courts. There will also be a trekking trail, picnic grounds, a play park, and an open-air pavilion. It's a recreational tropical oasis that's unique to Island Park.

And St. Paul's College is right inside so your kids don't have to travel far for their schooling. Moreover, Island Park is very close to malls, including SM City Dasmariñas, Robinsons Dasmariñas, and the soon to open SM Molino as well as banks, and other learning institutions. And it's a short drive to Tagaytay, the beaches of Batangas and nearby golf courses. With the generously spaced, tropical resort-like ambience, the homes and the facilities, you'll feel right at home in paradise—in Island Park.

Renowned planner David Jensen, based in Denver, Colorado, collaborated with Brittany Corporation to master plan Island Park. The tropical landscaping was conceptualized with the SWA Group.

Discover paradise! Come over to Island Park this weekend from 9 a.m. onwards. Enjoy the Latin and Caribbean music and the sumptuous island food. Make it a fun day at the island!

PARADISE FOUND

Lush tropical greenery across rolling expanses…warmed by the sun and cooled by the winds… it is a place where there's more space to play, more room to roam. This is paradise—something you'll find in Island Park.

A 100-hectare luxury residential community of 7 island villages, Island Park takes inspiration from the world's great tropical resorts.

Paseo Park, the 2.7-hectare recreational facility, interweaves tropical greenery with basketball, tennis, and sand volleyball courts, a trekking trail, picnic grounds, a play park, and the open-air pavilion. It's a recreational oasis unique to Island Park.

Find a leisurely life you'll enjoy…a life in paradise…a life in Island Park.

Get a Property Preview: 850 2868 • 850 6986

ISLAND PARK

Brittany
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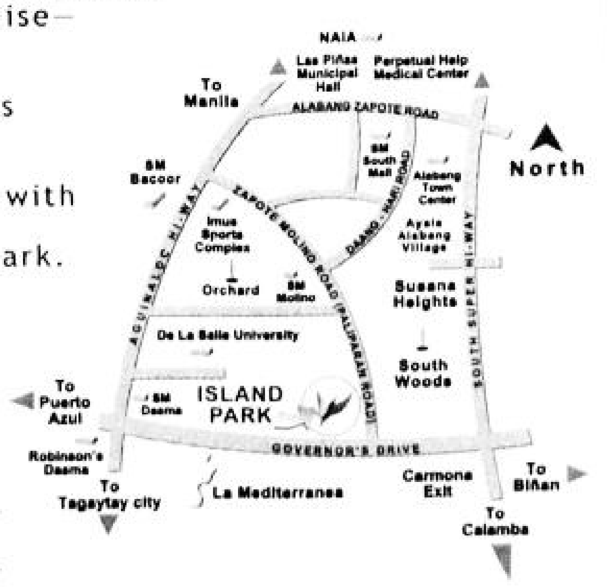
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De La Salle University
South Woods
To Puerto Azul
SM Dasma
ISLAND PARK
GOVERNOR'S DRIVE
Robinson's Dasma
To Tagaytay city
La Mediterranea
Carmona Exit
To Biñan
To Calamba

GISELE Bundchen with the Venghe Pochette in gold leather

SCARLETT Johannson with the Venghe Pochette in black satin

JESSICA Simpson with the Scala Pochette in silver karung

JULIA Roberts with the Happy Clutch in black satin

Elegant bags for Hollywood style icons

THE OSCAR Awards night never fails to bring out the best in Hollywood stars. They glam up and accentuate their looks with the season's hottest arm candy.

The classic style of Julia Roberts provides the perfect character for Tod's elegant finish. Fresh from a hiatus, the radiant new mom-of-two was seen dressed in a simple sleeveless black dress while clutching her Tod's Happy clutch in black satin.

Fashion model-turned-actress Gisele Bundchen brings Bohemian chic to life. From the catwalk to the silver screen, she exudes that girl-woman vibe that she is able to play up beautifully with her perfect choice of Tod's Venghe pochette in gold leather.

Blossoming style icon Scarlett Johannson pairs her minimalist black ensemble with Tod's Venghe pochette in black satin.

And when it's time to party, Jessica Simpson knows how to make an entrance. During the Oscars party hosted by Vanity Fair, Simpson is seen with two of her favorite arm candies—hubby Nick Lachey and, of course, Tod's Scala pochette in silver karung.

In the Philippines, Tod's is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Tod's is located at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

WACOAL NEWS

Wacoal

Abbygale Arenas - de Leon
1997 Bb. Pilipinas Universe;
now a sought-after image expert.

Fitting Care Tips For Summer!

Excited about summer? Let me give you some tips on how to take care of yourself this season. Hopefully, these will inspire you to be physically and even emotionally fit.

Fitting Time

Take advantage of this season and find ways to have a healthier body. Summer is great for outdoor sports, traveling, or simply exploring new things. However, if the weather can work for you, it can also work against you. Being under the scorching sun can be very dangerous. Here are some head-to-toe care tips you'll find very useful.

Mind over matter

Have the right mindset. Sure, summer is the opportune time to relax and lay back. But too much of this can result to laziness and idleness and, a less confident flabbier you. The key is being dynamic. Think of activities you can do, places to go to. Go ahead. Explore the world around you.

What you take is what you get

Summer is a fruit season. Sweet and refreshing fruits are cheap and readily available. Enjoy them. Not only are these great thirst-quenchers, but also very healthy. Nothing beats fruits as a natural source of vitamins and minerals. Teas, especially green teas, are also great for thirst. It can help cleanse your body of cholesterol and certain impurities.

Short cuts

Looking for an excuse to have that chic short hairstyle you always wanted? Summer is the perfect time for this cool change. It'll help you beat the heat and complement your activity-filled schedule. Wearing your hair short lessens your worries and gives you extra time to have fun! Make sure to prevent your hair from damage. After swimming in a beach or pool, wash your hair right away. The salty water and chlorine may damage your hair. The sun's extreme heat may also cause dryness and brittleness. So, moisturize and condition your hair frequently.

Skin-deep beauty

Having a tanned complexion during summer can make a person look fit. You come across as active and energetic. You can achieve this skin tone through different ways. The latest way is through a process called air tanning. With the use of an airbrush, your whole body will be safely colored and coated. The color can last from 7 to 10 days. You can also be tanned through cosmetics. Bronze makeup, tinted and sheer moisturizer, with a glossy lipstick to match, can give you the perfect summer look. Or tan yourself the old fashioned way. Stay under the sun. This can be very dangerous. That's why applying a sunscreen lotion/spray is a must. Deciding what number of SPF (Sun protection factor) best suits you can be confusing. Here's a simple tip I learned from my friend, Dr. Claire Torres. Add a zero to the SPF number of the sunscreen solution. This is how many minutes it can protect you from the sun. For example, SPF 30 becomes SPF 300. This means that you have about 300 minutes (5 hours) of shield from the sun's harmful rays.

Apply the sunscreen approximately 30 minutes to an hour before being exposed to the sun. It'll take that long for the sunscreen to take effect. Most of the sunscreens available today are already water-resistant. You don't have to reapply every time you get out of the water. However, when you dry yourself, pat the towel lightly to your skin. Do not use heavy strokes. It may remove the sunscreen you applied and can be hurtful to your skin.

LOOK HOT THIS SUMMER

Have fun with your clothes. Explore ways of showing your personality or even reinventing yourself.
The fashionable colors for this season take inspiration from the hues of nature in bloom. The bold shades of aqua, blue, green, fuchsia, orange and red are in. But be careful; don't invest too much. You'll only be able to use these for three months or so. In selecting your summer clothes, take note of the fabric. Choose clothes that are made of light fabrics like cotton. This will allow you to move freely and let air refresh you more easily. There are many factors to consider in choosing the perfect swimsuit. It should be able to hide your flaws, but also flatter and flaunt your assets. Dark colors can hide certain areas you want less emphasized. So if you have full breasts and you want it minimized, choose a swimsuit that is dark colored in the upper portion. If you have wide hips, a dark colored lower portion is best. If you want to create an illusion of a slender waist, choose a style that has sides in a solid dark color. Fine prints and vertical lines can also be slimming.

It is very important to fit anything before buying. Don't rely on sizes. People vary in body types. Some companies may have not considered these in the sizes they offer. Also, consider the activities you'll be engaging in. Fitting it will allow you to see if you can move freely to do the activities you like. Your clothes should not stop you from having fun. Having a garment that perfectly suits you is crucial. It can give you the comfort and confidence to do things and project your desired image. It is so vital that I support Wacoal's current campaign, The Perfect Fit. We want women to realize the vast benefits of wearing a brassiere that fits perfectly. It actually affects a woman's level of comfort and confidence.

Make the most out of summer! Take these care tips to heart and after this season, you'll be healthier, more confident and rejuvenated.

Caring for Your Foundation Garments
You wear your undergarments close to your body so it is important to keep them clean. Care must be given to gently protect them from the rigors of prolonged use. Gentle and careful handing is crucial. It is important to wash these items regularly. Luxury items like lingerie maintain their quality as long as they are cared for properly. Take particular note that as undergarments are usually made of fine, thin and soft materials, you must be careful when pulling them on and taking them off. Be especially careful that your fingernails don't damage the fabric! Check the small label on the inner part of your undergarment. It contains symbols, which tell you how to care for your fabric when you wash it.

When Washing
The ideal way to wash undergarments is to handwash them in lukewarm water using a neutral detergent. Study the following checkpoints to keep your undergarments in the best condition possible.

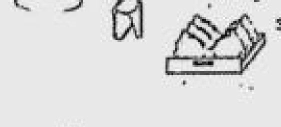
Water
Do not use hot water. Use lukewarm or cold water.

Detergent
- Select the detergent after checking the type of fabric your undergarments are made of.
- Use over-the-counter neutral detergents to wash.
- Please note that chlorine bleach may damage or discolor the fabric.
- Use an appropriate amount of detergent to wash. Excessive amounts may burden the fabric and damage it.
- Do not directly apply the detergent on the fabric. This may cause discoloration or uneven colors.
- Dissolve the detergent in lukewarm water between 30°C to 40°C before washing the undergarments.

Others
- Use a "lingerie laundry bag" when machine washing.
- Delicately laced lingerie should be handwashed.
- Wash light colors first.
- Dark colors should be washed separately.

Storage
It is a good idea to separate undergarments from other clothes when putting them away in drawers. However, the fabrics may deteriorate and become extremely fragile if you leave them in the drawers without using them for two to three years. Especially look after your bras and girdles.

Caring for your T-shirt Bras



1. Padded brassieres should be handwashed; machine washing will change the shape of the undergarment.
2. Do not wring dry. Gently press with your palm and straighten the fabric of the cup area to its original shape to avoid wrinkling.
3. Do not fold the T-shirt bras when putting them inside the drawers. Stock them neatly beside each other. Provide enough space for each bra to maintain the form of the pads.

Basic knowledge on the picture symbols.

40	The liquid temperature should not be hotter than 40°C and the undergarment can be machine washed. However use of a net is a advised.
30	The liquid temperature should not be hotter than 30°C and the undergarment should be lightly hand washed (not machine washed).
	The undergarment can not be bleached with chlorine.
	Do not dry clean.
	The undergarment can be dry cleaned. Use a petroleum based solvent
	Limit the iron temperature to 180°C maximum. The undergarment should be ironed only under medium temperatures (between 140°C and 160°C) (—This indicates the recommended use of a piece of fabric placed over the item to iron).
	The undergarment cannot be ironed.
	Gently wring the undergarment by hand or use low speed spin dry when using a machine
	The undergarment should be hung in the shade.

CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE **Tel No.: 884-1517 • Email: philwacoal@skyinet.net**

COOL AND CRISP. White V-neck top with blue water-splash and summer-print accents and white linen pants

Breezy styles for hot days

SAIL on to summer with cool, clean and crisp separates from SM.

This year's resort forecast puts luxe linen pieces on top of the menswear style list. The mood is nonchalant, relaxed and leisurely: breezy tunic tops, drawstring and cropped pants. A touch of embroidery, stitching, subtle details and prints complete the look.

The collection is available at the Menswear Department of all SM stores.

LOVE THAT LINEN. Three-button embroidered khaki top worn over white cropped pants

BEIGE collared V-neck linen top over brown cargo shorts

Around the world

From page F1

Chari Villanueva-Cabral

Businesswoman; sugar planter; gemologist (Briolette/ Jeunesse Dermaceutical)

Lately, the Gemological Conventions and Gift Shows in Asia and the US that I go to for my buying trips have become my shopping meccas. But some favorites include the markets of London, Sydney, Madrid, Venice, as they have been great sources of fashionable vintage finds. Even Cairo is different and unforgettable in its own way.

Elsewhere, famous avenues are shopping and entertainment magnets: vibrant Kurfurstendam Avenue in Berlin, Kalakaua Avenue in Honolulu (reasonable buys of pearls, corals and silver) and pedestrian-filled Kartnerstrasse in Vienna where one can also experience the most heavenly desserts and famous *wienerli*; also Orchard in Singapore.

Italy remains close to my heart. In Rome, I have a favorite store for handbags on Via Ottaviano (Maxim's); Via del Corso and Via Frattina, on the Piazza di Spagna... Boutiques (some not exactly cheap, though) dot this area where discovering reasonably priced bags and outfits is a big thrill, more so in a city dominated by old-name brands.

In Piazza Navona, there is a store with the most beautiful hand-painted ceramic blocks, intricate works of art in many themes. The name is De Sanctis, and I remember wanting to buy everything in it! In Venice, there's a store right in Piazza San Marco called Martinuzzi, with the most impressive, elegant glass objects imaginable for the home, not the usual "touristy" Murano glass one sees.

Ito Kish

CEO and creative director of Kish

I love Asian stuff, and for me Ubod in Bali offers unexpected wonders in shopping while surrounded by nature, temples and culture. Items you can find vary from traditional to cutting-edge design using wood (both old and new), silver, fabric and others. Ubod is also considered an artist's haven, so you can just imagine the creativity and talent (both local and international) that abound. The other great reason for me to shop in Ubod is the fact that I am fluent in Bahasa Indonesia, which is perfect for bargaining!

I remember purchasing this *dulang*, a 100-year-old wooden tray for about $100 ($1 for every year of its history). I love it so much because of the quality of the wood—how it has aged though the years and how it stands out in my house wherever I place it and how I can use it either as a fruit, candle or towel tray.

Palais Royale, Paris. I recently discovered this place on my ninth trip to Paris. Unwittingly, it was just at the back of the hotel I always stayed in. All the while I thought it was an old empty palace, but one early morning last September while I was killing time to catch a flight to Prague, I decided to wander around. I discovered shops that sold medals and decorative sashes that heads of state gave to dignitaries or VIPs, intricately carved wooden toys, avant-garde fashion and home decor. On my next visit, I will surely explore this place more and arm myself with more euros!

Chatuchak in Bangkok is like Divisoria and Quiapo put together and even better! If you do not mind having the same item with the rest of the world, then this is the place. Of course you can also find one-of-a-kind pieces, from jewelry to old violins and long-playing albums to snakes. Years ago, I bought two dozen Mao Tse Tung T-shirts which I gave out as Christmas gifts to friends. They only cost P10 each! But when you go to Chatuchak, make sure you condition yourself because it can get really hot and sweaty.

Chat Fores

Interior designer

Bali, Indonesia, is so beautiful. Not only are there many gorgeous resorts and hotels, the shopping is also fantastic! In Kuta Village, there are many boutiques carrying a lot of local fashion accessories. There are hundreds of beaded flip flops and leather thong slippers to choose from, eyelet blouses in every color, beaded bags from "shopping-bag large" to wristlets with huge animal-horn details, multicolored sarongs with gold patterns, kaftans with ornate Javanese details, and really chunky silver and gold jewelry! All the artwork and carved ornaments can be found in Ubud—great art pieces, sandstone carvings in every shape and size for indoors and outdoors, carved wood panels and doors in different heights, Javanese masks and bone carvings. The accessories vary from antique to modern to fit any home.

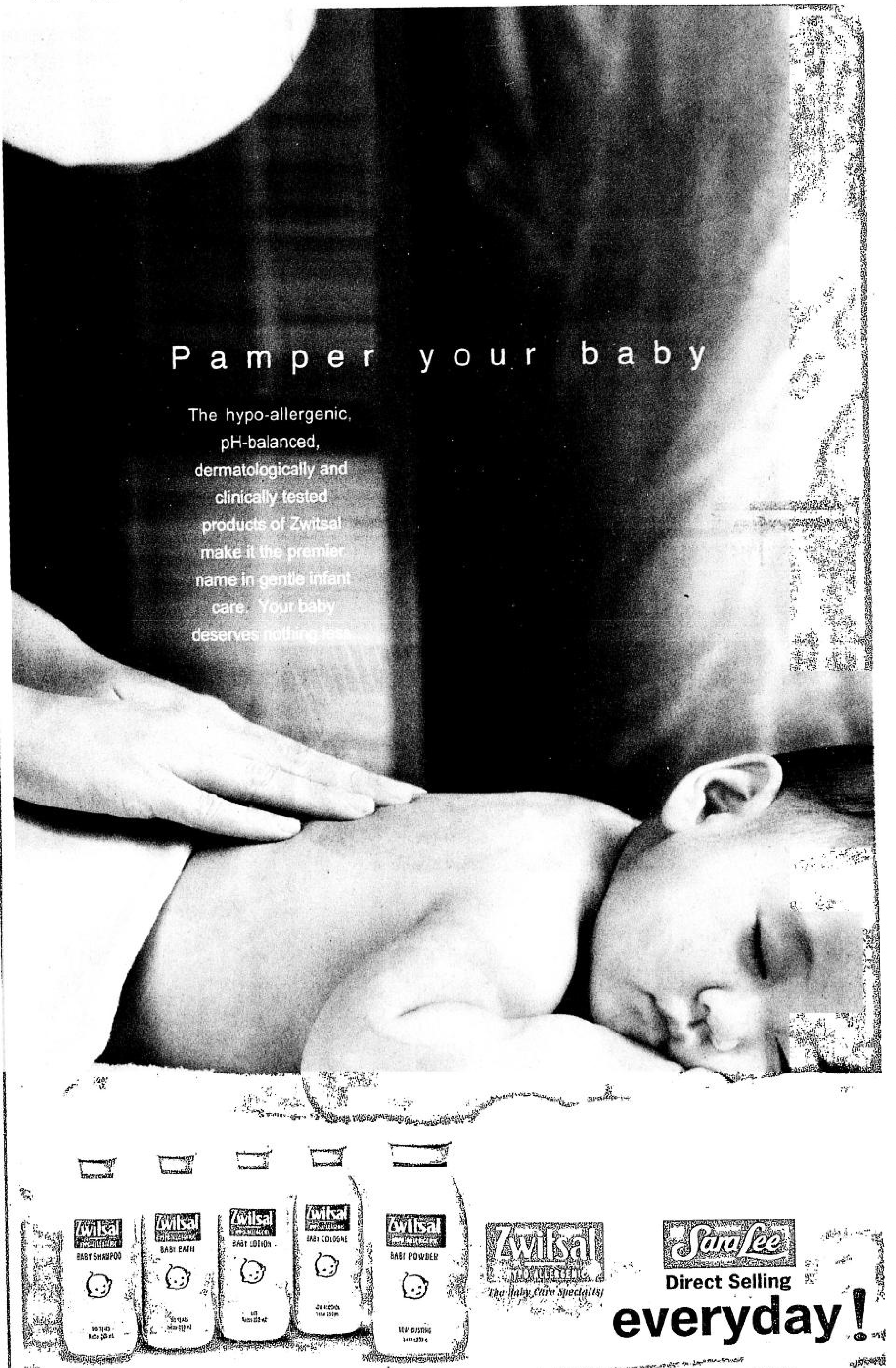
They also have markets that sell old doors, pillars from houses, wooden corbels and antique hardware—hinges with green patina, door handles, door locks. If you're building a house, you can go crazy with all the different accessories and furniture available in Bali. Plus, Bali is filled with many artists, craftsmen, woodcarvers and jewelry designers from different countries who have settled there, so you can visit them and check out their one-of-a-kind pieces.

Calle de Serrano houses the best boutiques in Madrid, Spain, from the major fashion labels such as Armani, Carolina Herrera, Hermes, to the Spanish favorite Loewe for leather goods. I always make it a point to visit the shop of the elegant Spanish designer Adolfo Dominguez for his well-cut clothes and leather Japanese obi belts in black, tan, violet, celadon green and red. He has a ton of matching fashion accessories—belts, shoes, bags, hats, gloves and even leather shawls. His leather goods come in cowhide, snakeskin, ostrich, alligator and sheep.

Calle de Serrano is also filled with boutiques that carry modern and edgy Spanish-designed furniture as well as antique accessories. Some jewelry shops carry very flamboyant over-the-top pieces that are perfect additions to a simple outfit.

El Rastro, Madrid, Spain (located at the neighborhood of Lavapies near Puerta de Toledo), is for me one of the best flea markets in the world! Open only on Sundays, it's filled with every article you can think of: antique pieces, secondhand goods, extraordinary period furniture pieces, candelabras in odd shapes, vintage brooches and cameos, leather-bound books, period style hinges and hardware, good paintings, cowhides in every dyed color and pattern (reasonably priced!), even secondhand bullfighter's costumes!

The place is full of people, so I just bring a small bag I can tuck under my coat.



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Promo gives away 3 new vehicles

GOINGS ON

THREE lucky shoppers of Robinsons Malls can get a chance to drive home a brand-new Nissan X-trail 4x2 unit. Shoppers may join and win by exchanging receipts at all Robinsons Malls nationwide for raffle coupons. Promo period starts today until June 10. Deadline for dropping of entries is on June 10. The grand draw is set on June 17, 4 p.m., at Robinsons Place Pioneer. Meanwhile, the deadline for the submission of entries to Mom Photo Contest is on April 24. Entries should consist of one 8R most recent colored photo of Mom and kids during summer vacation and an accomplished entry form. Call 6836137/ 6836100.

WORKSHOP. Runway and Modeling Perfection (RAMP), a personalized workshop on how to be a ramp, commercial or print model, is ongoing at the Alliance Française de Manille building in Makati City. A project of Timebase Productions, in cooperation with Listening in Style and Shangri-La Plaza, it is being conducted by model Kuku Trinidad, former Ms Bodyshots and Elite Model Look of the Year.

EXHIBIT. De La Salle University-Manila will hold the exhibition "In the Public Eye: An Exhibit on the Lasalian Scholarum Awards" today until April 17 at Ayala Mall, lower level. Call 5265913/ 5244611 loc. 246.

CONCERT. Paco Park Presents features Awit String Quartet tonight at 6. The group consists of Michael Vargas (violin 1), Roi Trawon (violin 2), Albert Magcalas (viola) and Reinier Mendoza (cello). Admission is free.

SALE. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal holds a summer sale today until April 17. Get up to 50 percent discounts on summer apparel and accessories from Sta. Lucia East Department Store, Planet Toys, Home Gallery and over 250 specialty stores and boutiques mallwide. Every P500 single purchase receipt entitles you to a raffle coupon in the 18th anniversary giveaway promo. Get the chance to win an X-Trail, home appliances, gift certificates and grocery items at the 2nd grand draw on May 20. Call 6815402 local 112.

WORKSHOP. Actress and former Bb. Pilipinas International Alma Concepcion will conduct a workshop on Preparing for a Beauty Pageant. The workshop is set today until April 17, 2-5 p.m., at Nicotina Garden Pavilion, Roxas Blvd. service road, Pasay. Open to girls 13 years old and above. Call 5517906-07.

MUSICAL. Concert at the Park features Gen. Roxas Elementary School Melody Rondalla on April 17, 6 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

DANCE WORKSHOP. Powerdance 11th Summer Dance Workshop opens on April 18 at Powerdance Studio, located at Shopwise, Cubao. It will feature jazz, ballet, hiphop, ballroom, powerhit and dance-aerobics. Call 9958287/ 9958283.

SEMINAR. The Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines will hold a seminar-workshop on Organizational Development, Leadership, Change and the Future of Libraries on April 20-22 at Ramon Magsaysay Technical University in Iba, Zambales. Call 5249217, 5244611 local 602/265, 8958684 local 121 and 8907214.

WORKSHOP. Positive Self-Esteem Workshop will be held today, April 22 and 29, 6-9 p.m., at Life Change Counseling Center, 57 Examiner cor. Times Streets, West Triangle, QC. This will be facilitated by Dr. Randy Dellosa, director of Life Transformation Institute. Call 4156529/ 4157964/ 7314016.

ARENA joins this year's Mossimo Bikini Summit on April 30 at Araneta Coliseum. Present during the signing of agreement were Eleanor Mempin, brand manager of Arena; Ronnie Colmenar, business development manager, PSI Distribution Corp.; Darrell Wisbey, general manager, PSI Distribution Corp.; Calvin Neria and Duds Santiago, Cast and Crew, producer and organizer of Mossimo Bikini Summit.

KITE-FLYING. April 24 is kite-flying day at Starland Themepark and Resort. Join in as kite enthusiasts amaze you with their colorful kites and kite-flying prowess while enjoying a great view from Starland Resort's rooftop. Call 8504283.

TOURNAMENT. The 888 Fishing Place will hold a fishing tournament, The 1st Fishing Tourney at the Pond, on May 1, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., at Covelandia Road, Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. Call (046) 4340803/ 0915-5638209.

PROGRAM. Tumble Tots holds arts and crafts workshops, dramatic plays and field trips for kids aged 5-8. The programs are ongoing until May 6. Call 6876793/ 6373706.

ANNIVERSARY. Malate Catholic School batch '85 alumni will hold its 20th anniversary on May 7, 6 p.m., at Sampaguita Hall, Penthouse Suite, Hyatt Regency Manila, Roxas Boulevard. Call 7861538/ 8514113/ 3732178/ 8220158.

REUNION. Former employees of the defunct Philippines Daily Express are requested to register their names with the organizing committee for the 2005 Daily Express "alumni" reunion. The lunch reunion is slated on May 7 at National Press Club's Bulwagang Plaridel. Call 3010521-22/ 6416393.

SEMINAR. The National Museum will conduct a seminar-workshop on Basic Museology on May 18-June 9 at the Museum's Main Building. The course focuses on different phases of museum work. Call 5270278.

WORKSHOPS. Pol Mesina Jr. will conduct basic and advanced workshops on drawing and painting at the following venues: God's Little Angels Development Center, Inc., 0265 Sunset Drive, Brookside Hills Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal, tels. 6552517/ 6474504, ongoing until May 23; Aheadstart Child Development Center, 72 San Rafael St., Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig, tel. 6319548, ongoing until May 25; Second Mom Preschool, Dom 1 Phil. Sports Complex, Molave St., Ugong, Pasig, tels. 6359743/ 6352002, ongoing until May 25; Creative Beginners Center for Learning Development, Greenmeadows Ave., Greenmeadows Subdivision, QC, tels. 6357374/ 6377928, ongoing until May 25.

FAIR. Jobs Fair Caravan 2005@Robinson's Malls is set on the following dates: May 23-29, Robinsons Place Manila; June 11-17, Robinson's Starmills Pampanga; July 2-8, Robinson's Metro East; Sept. 3-5, Robinson's Place Imus; Oct. 1-7, Robinson's Pioneer. Call 8253482/ 8250804.

MUSICAL. Ateneo High School class 1980 presents Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" on June 25, 2 p.m., at Meralco Theater. Directed by Bobby Garcia, this Broadway musical will feature KC Concepcion and Karel Marquez alternating in the lead role of Belle. The musical will be for the benefit of Ateneo de Manila University Scholarship Fund. Call 8184152/ 0918-9147220.

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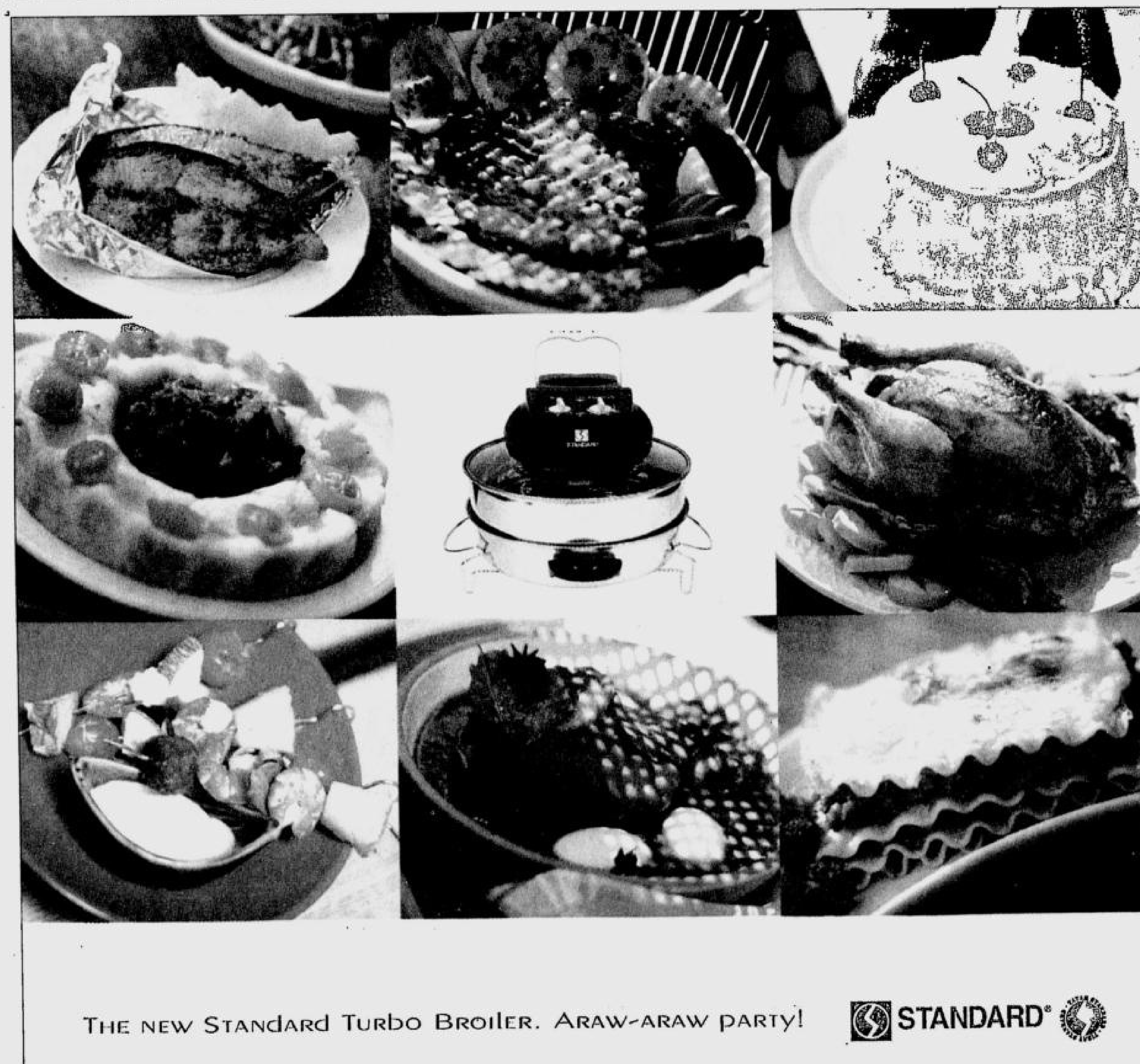

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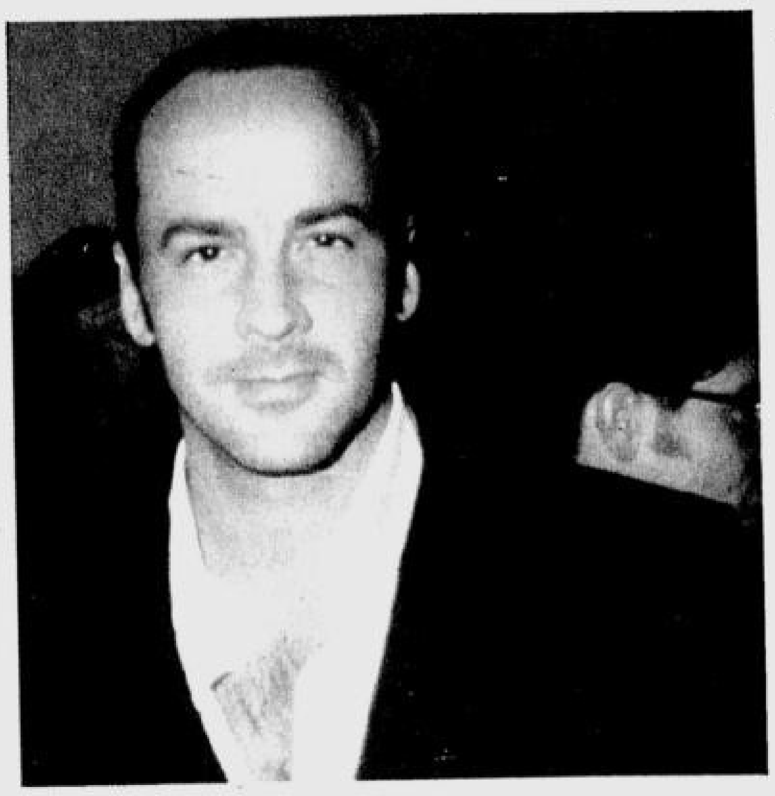

The biggest fashion news this week is his agreement with Estée Lauder

Tom Ford is back in design

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THE BIG news in fashion these days is **Tom Ford** is back with his own design venture. As expected he is with his longtime business partner **Domenico De Sole** who was at the helm, with Ford, at the Gucci Group.

According to the fashion trade bible, Women's Wear Daily (WWD), Ford and De Sole have formed a company to launch a beauty (not fashion) label they themselves will finance.

The firm, WWD wrote, will have a beauty venture with Estée Lauder and another agreement, in eyewear, with another firm, Marcolin.

Exactly what products Ford would turn out for Estée Lauder are kept under wraps. What's clear, however, is that Ford is not joining Lauder as creative director, contrary to earlier rumors, but will have his own "design beauty" brand (accessories perhaps) within the giant firm. This means Ford will not be steering the Estée Lauder brand, unlike in Gucci where he reinvented the brand (from the traditional leather goods to an expanded fashion, fragrance, home lines) into one of the strongest in the '90s and way into the 21st century.

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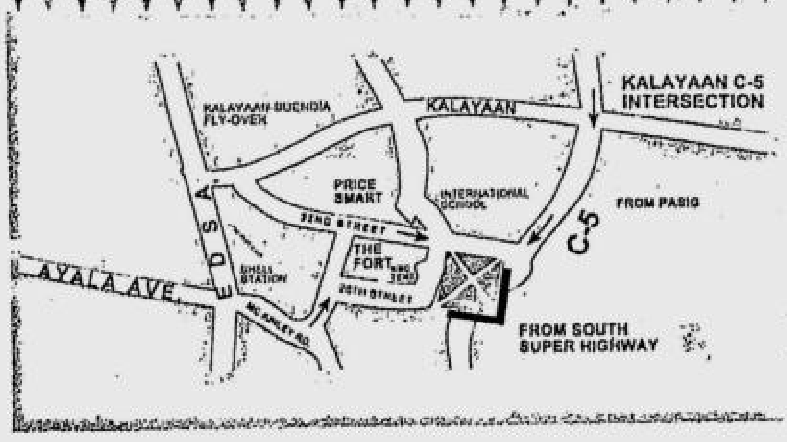
Time to harvest the best deals
April 15 & 16, 10am - 12mn
April 17, 10am - 9pm

MARKET! MARKET!
Bonifacio Global City
The fun is in the finds



April 15	April 16	April 17
10am to 12mn	10am to 12mn	10am to 9pm
Star Records presents Michael Cruz & Johann Escanan 6pm Activity Center	Angel Locsin Vhong Navarro & Parokya ni Edgar presented by AXE 6pm Activity Center	Celebrate Summer Fiesta with Pangkat Kawayan 4pm Central Plaza

Open parking beside Fiesta Market and across Playzone.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-199, Series of 2005.

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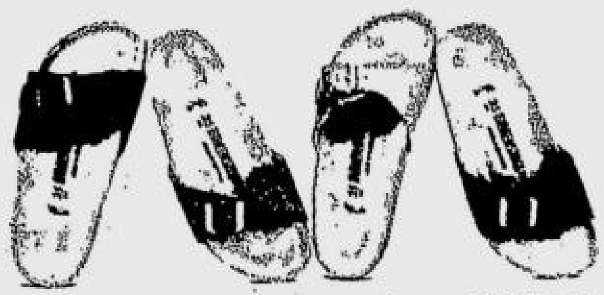

LIGHT and comfy Birkenstock unisex slip-ons in purple, ochre, mint green and fuchsia

MATCHING wicker bag with white leather handle and accents and buckle detail, and a pair of Birkenstock slip-ons in white

GLIDE your feet into a trendy pair of Birkenstock unisex slip-ons, match them with a hip Francesco ladies' bag and you are ready to take on the outdoors.

The Birkenstock comfy slip-ons from Germany made available by Francesco are trendy and stylish with easy outlines and caring performance. Made from high-quality leather, they provide greater comfort when walking, and enhance posture and balance. The sandals feature a wide range of nature-inspired colors like brown, dark brown, moss green, black, red, blue, cream, peach, white and pink.

Francesco also showcases a new set of wicker bags. With a breezy tropical feel, the wicker bags have leather accents with spirited color choices of black, creme, fuchsia, hyacinth, navy nubuck, pink, red, sand nubuck, stone blue and white.

Visit Francesco at Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati; SM Megamall, Edsa Mandaluyong; Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas Center, Quezon City; Alabang Town Center, Alabang, Muntinlupa; Cavite; Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Shaw Blvd, Mandaluyong City; and Shoppesville, Greenhills, San Juan.

RED BIRKENSTOCK unisex slip-ons and a matching wicker bag with leather handle and accents, and buckle details in red

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1917 Series of 2005

Robinsons Galleria Flagship Store
Robinsons Malls | Waltermart Malls | Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Festival Mall Alabang | Nepo Mall Pampanga

Tom Ford is back in design

From page G1

What Ford had done for Gucci is already an integral part of contemporary world fashion history.

It's a landmark story—the conversion of a stodgy brand plodding on to the late 20th century and beset with Gucci family rifts, to the hottest selling luxury lines. With great panache Ford put sex into fashion marketing. Starting with his trademark black, Ford showed how he combined his sharp eye for design, aesthetics sense and cutting-edge taste, with his unerring reading of the market.

I still remember distinctly what he told me, during the Envy launch in Milan, about where fashion would be going: "It's not about fashion, it is about lifestyle."

This was in the mid-'90s, and those words turned out to be prophetic, for indeed the universal drift in marketing and branding was lifestyle. One didn't sell an isolated piece of clothing, manufacturers didn't sell just a car, telecoms didn't sell only a cellphone unit —they all tried to sell their brand of lifestyle to the consumer.

Ford was hailed as one of the best designers and marketers of the era.

Since Ford and De Sole left the Gucci Group last year, the fashion world and beauty industry have not stopped speculating where the power pair would turn up. Even I, as WWD said, with the "tens of millions of dollars worth of stock options and salary during the boom years of luxury—and Gucci—in the '90s," the pair really didn't have to work the rest of their lives, still the world knew that they also couldn't stay away from the exciting world of fashion and luxury goods.

Even Hollywood is on standby, watching out where and when Ford would direct a movie. Ford was a budding actor before he went into designing and he's always professed his passion for directing.

De Sole, who visited Manila right after his resignation from the Gucci Group, as guest of the Tantoco family and Stores Specialists Inc. (which owns the Gucci retail here), also enjoyed his share of speculations. The industry expected him to join the luxury men's brand Zegna, whose CEO is his close friend.

The duo's venture with Estée Lauder put all that speculation to rest. It is said that Ford's first line with Lauder will roll out in time for the holidays this year, and that by fall 2006, there could be a Ford fashion line.

His eyewear collection for Marcolin will be shown to the press in October, WWD reported, and will be out on retail in January 2006.

In the new design firm, Ford will be president and chief executive officer and De Sole the chair.

WWD also reported that Ford will also pursue his movie career. He is said to have formed his production company named—why should you be surprised?—Fade to Black Productions.

Indeed Tom Ford—the name and the brand—is still a work in progress. Nothing like Tom Ford to make the style world a bit more exciting these days.

Silence

As Pope John Paul II was being laid to rest and the world watched with sadness, awe and reverence, you realized what should be a most important—but oft ignored—component of broadcast communications: silence. It was admirable how CNN anchors knew when to shut up and let the image take over. As the Requiem Mass was under way, one anchor admonished another to refrain from "commentary" and just watch.

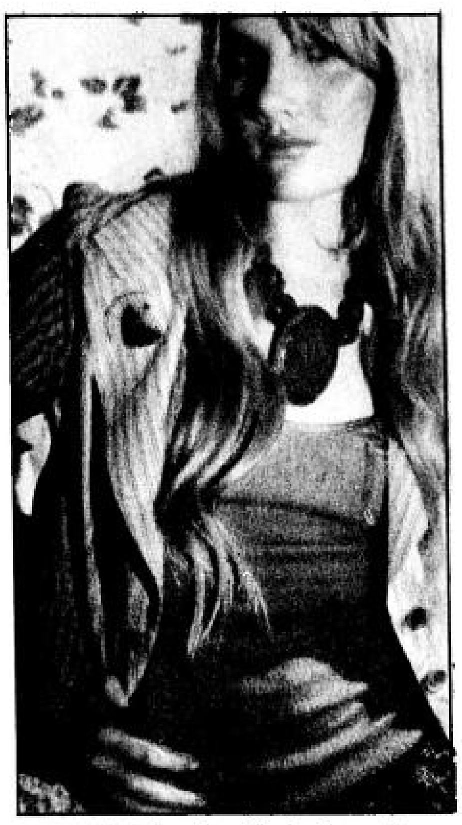
Indeed a good broadcast journalist must know when to let the "moment" take over before his/her audience. Words can't even begin to picture what the camera can. The silence that backdropped the sight of the Pope's casket being hoisted for the last time before a grieving world was both overpowering and poignant. A good broadcast journalist, therefore, must recognize the moment and know when to leave it alone.

No need to be maudlin.

E-mail the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com

A GOOD pair of jeans is one of the basic closet must-haves, says Topshop UK-based marketing manager Gina di Gregorio.

GEOMETRIC pattern on orange-and-white halter tops go well with dark-colored cropped pants.



A BROWN pinstriped jacket is perfect with natural-green tank top and a beaded wine-toned skirt.

DARK-COLORED halter top with bright-yellow crochet skirt

UK group's top woman in marketing visits

GINA Di Gregorio, marketing manager of the United Kingdom-based Arcadia Group Limited (the company that operates Topshop and Topman), was in town recently as part of her regular visit to franchise stores.

Di Gregorio manages offshore branches and handles relations between the UK and branches worldwide. She sees to it that the total display look and marketing strategies are strictly carried out by franchisees.

The Arcadia executive was satisfied with the performance of all Topshop stores in the country. She noted that the Philippines was becoming much like the UK, fashion-wise, with Filipinos being more open and candid about dressing up.

The Philippines' young, fashion-savvy customers, she added, know what they want.

Di Gregorio said current trends all over the world were bolder and more feminine, heralding the renewed popularity of skirts and the return of big geometric prints.

Taking this into account, Topshop 2005 Spring-Summer collection is an interesting mix of color and freshness. It has a lot of vivid handmade embellishments, graphic '70s wallpaper designs, patchwork crochet, intricately crafted Mid-East and Indian fabric ideas.

COTTON dresses, often in empress cut or floral prints, are great wear for the season.

LADIES' shoes in funky shades of green, pink, blue and red

TOPSHOP-TOPMAN'S Spring-Summer 2005 Collection's version of summer floral-printed polo over faded denims

WHITE jacket with brown piping over aqua-green inner shirt and army-green cargos

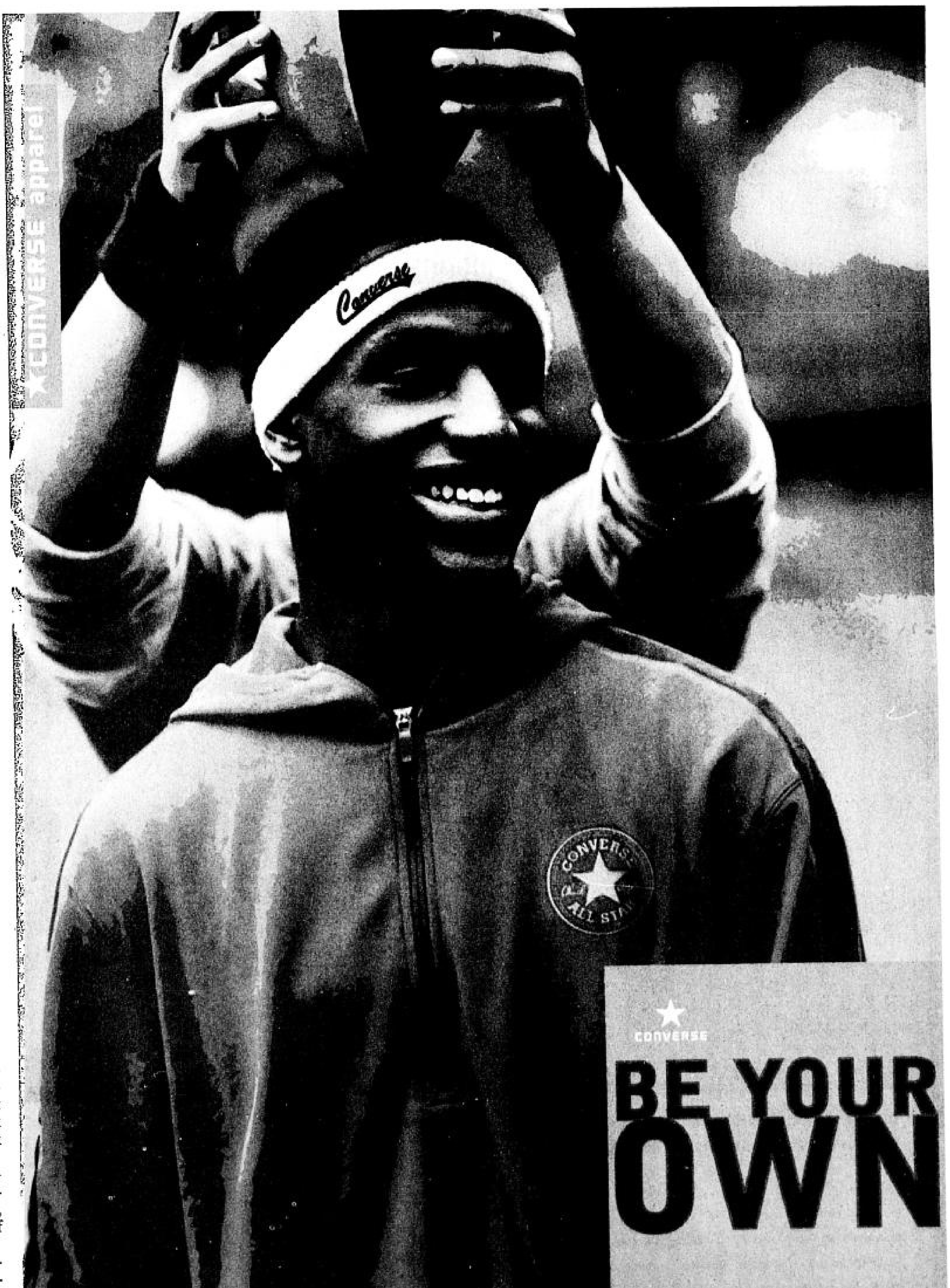
There are ruffled or maxi skirts, vintage laced camisoles, cotton dresses with patch pockets, Afro-Aztec themes, wooden beadings, sequined scarves and tops that go well with long gossamer silk taffeta fabrics, Hessian belts and chestnut brown wicker bags.

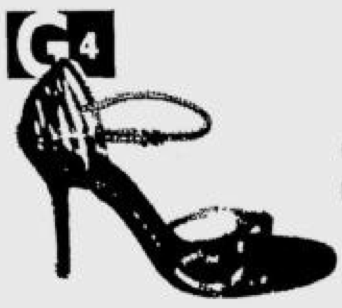
Di Gregorio said the items create a playful, vibrant look with a feminine silhouette.

Topman's latest collection, on the other hand, features washed-out shirts, Hawaiian-inspired surfer-punk board shorts, flashy graphics, tarnished trousers, sun-depleted sweatshirts and acid wash wide-legged trousers. Evident in the collection is the influence of different cultures, including Cuban, Mexican and Hispanic. Simple fabrics, religious iconography and poster art presents the relaxed side of Latino while slim-fit single-breasted coat, printed silk scarves knotted around the neck provide more refined silhouettes.

Asked what should be basic closet must-haves for the fashion-conscious, Di Gregorio suggested skirt, simple white top and a good pair of jeans that would go anywhere.

Topshop-Topman's Spring-Summer Collection is currently available at all Topshop branches in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 2-Ayala Center, Power Plant, Alabang Town Center and at Topman stores in Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Manila.




WESLEY shimmer gold

Stylish shoes and bags for young women

CHINESE Laundry offers a collection of stylish footwear for young women.

Its fabric and leather collection oozes sassiness and glamour. Its dressy metallics exude elegance and sophistication.

The Jello shoe, for instance, combines kid leather and metallic snakeskin, to come up with a sexy strapped mule.

The Nora shoe, on the other hand, features metallic silver shimmer. It's got sexy high heels and straps with floral design.

Meanwhile, the Wesley collection screams sexy sophistication with its satin grainy glitter, seductive high heels and straps.

Need a bag to match your shoes? Chinese Laundry designs chic bags with strong colors, bold prints and flashy designs. The Jerri bag of cotton canvas is perfect for casual days. Its double handle and floral print speak of ease.

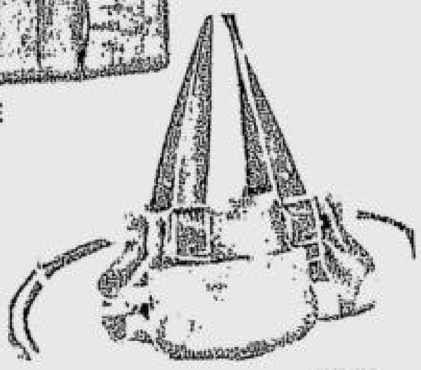
Tropics is likewise a perfect casual day bag with its comfortable double ring handle and dirt-free nylon material. The Lana clutch bag goes minimal on frilly details. This silver purse goes from glam to glitzy, formal to fun. Meanwhile, the Chloe handbag, made of PVC material, has a small top zip that's chic and sleek.

Chinese Laundry is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc., and is available at Greenbelt 3 and Rustan's Gateway Mall. Soon to open at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, and Rustan's Makati.

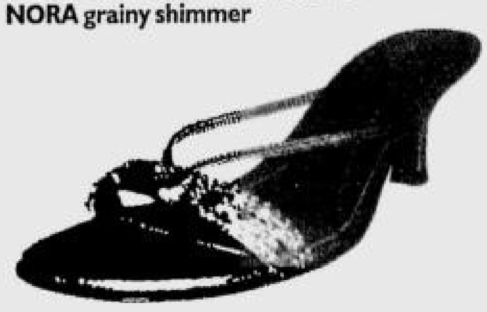
TROPICS

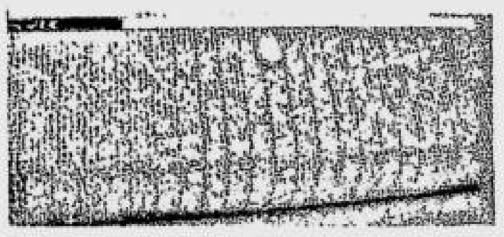
CHLOE

CAINE


JERRI

NORA grainy shimmer


JELLO pink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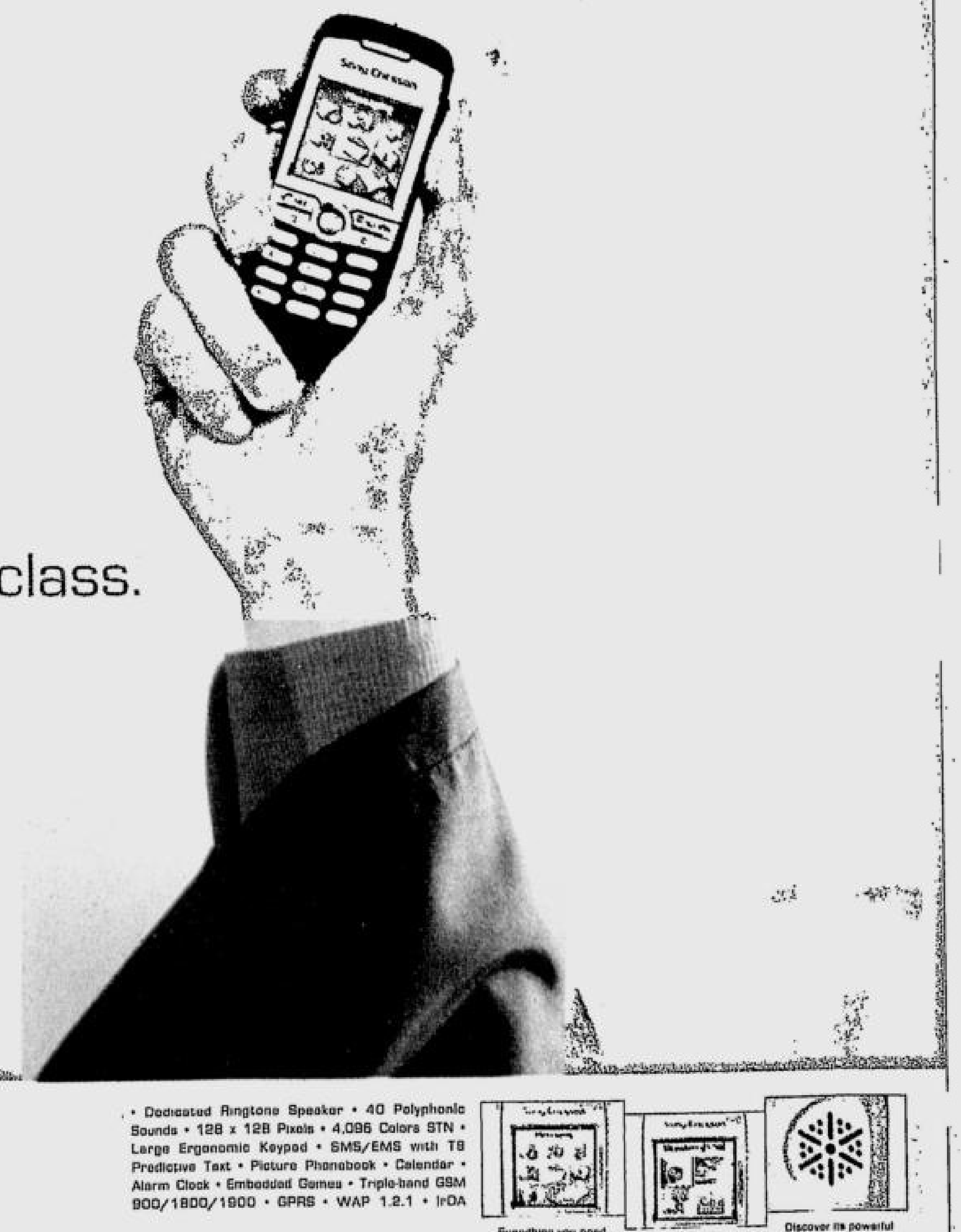

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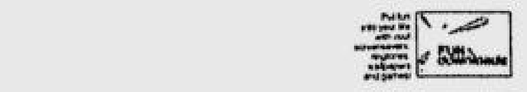
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Aromessence Circularome

CARITA
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With Carita spa treatment, one's scalp becomes healthy and dandruff-free and hair bounces with body and shine

Day of decadence

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

AS I booked an appointment for a full day of pampering, I couldn't help but feel overwhelmed by guilt. It just seemed so decadent! It turns out I couldn't have picked a better day. That particular morning my alarm clock that had kept perfect time just died on me two hours before it was scheduled to ring so I thought I had two extra hours to waste. I ended up missing my lunch at Max Brenner for the Launch of Origin's chocolate body line.

I just did a quick washing up, answered some e-mail for work and rushed out with greasy hair, unmade-up face and all. Turns out I needed this day to calm me down from a harassing start. Let me point out that all the treatments I experienced had no masking fragrance and therefore au natural.

My first stop was a 2:30 p.m. appointment at My Beauty Hub, located at 6750 Ayala Avenue for a Phytomer detoxifying facial. All their facials require you to be bare from the waist up as they apply a bubbling seaweed pack for you to lie on during the facial. My facial was with the Purifying line for Oily and Acne-prone skin. The music was relaxing and the facialist's hands were soothing but the seaweed pack smelled like salted fish. Thankfully, the awful smell didn't last long. There

DAY/ H3

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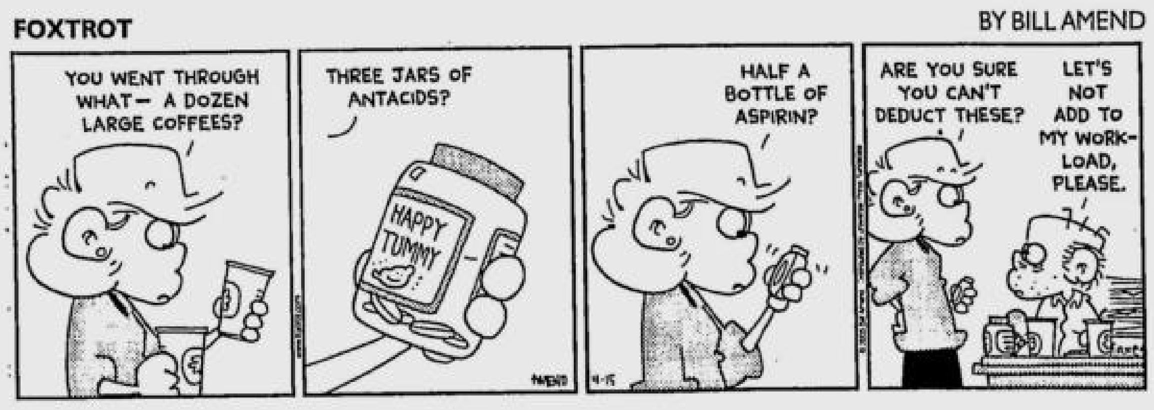
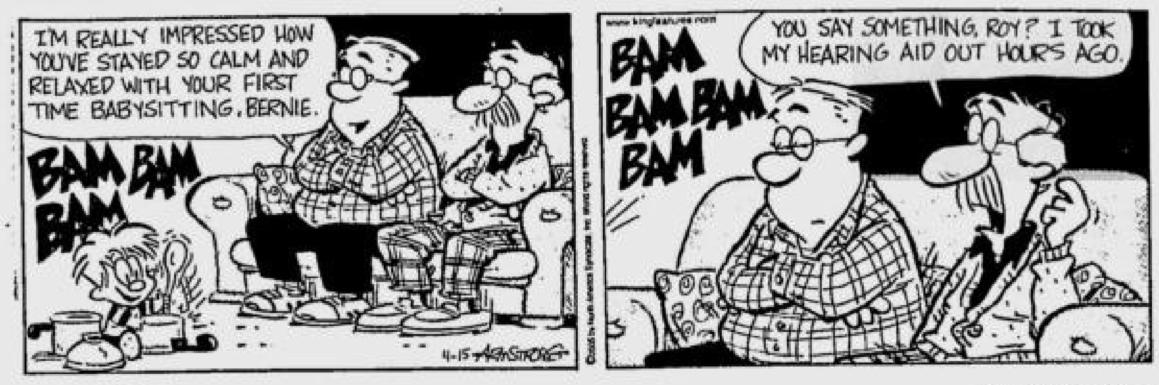
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU WENT THROUGH WHAT— A DOZEN LARGE COFFEES?
THREE JARS OF ANTACIDS?
HAPPY TUMMY
HALF A BOTTLE OF ASPIRIN?
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN'T DEDUCT THESE?
LET'S NOT ADD TO MY WORK-LOAD, PLEASE.
AMEND 4-15

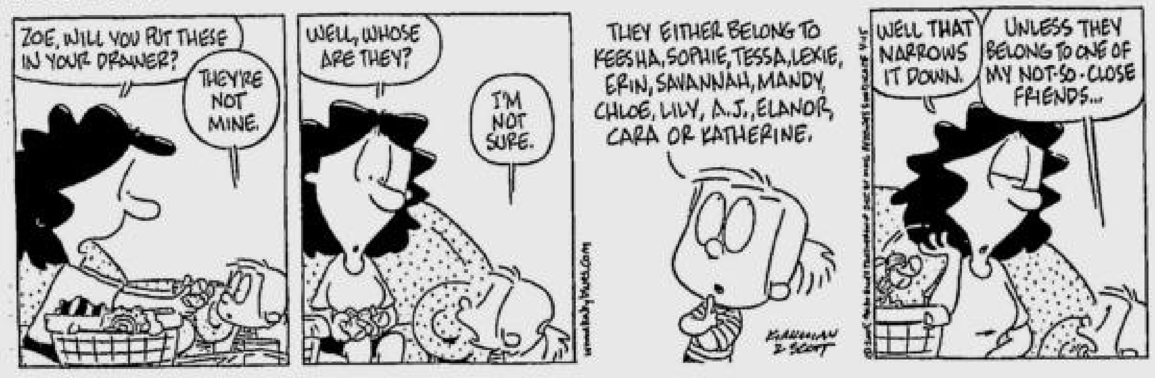
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'M REALLY IMPRESSED HOW YOU'VE STAYED SO CALM AND RELAXED WITH YOUR FIRST TIME BABYSITTING, BERNIE.
BAM BAM BAM BAM
YOU SAY SOMETHING, ROY? I TOOK MY HEARING AID OUT HOURS AGO.
BAM BAM BAM BAM
4-15 ARMSTRONG

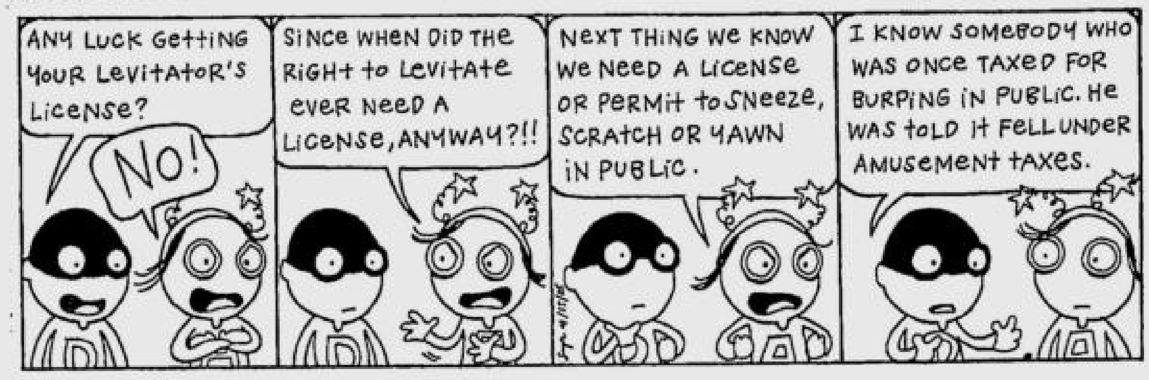
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE, WILL YOU PUT THESE IN YOUR DRAWER?
THEY'RE NOT MINE.
WELL, WHOSE ARE THEY?
I'M NOT SURE.
THEY EITHER BELONG TO KEESHA, SOPHIE, TESSA, LEXIE, ERIN, SAVANNAH, MANDY, CHLOE, LILY, A.J., ELANOR, CARA OR KATHERINE.
WELL THAT NARROWS IT DOWN.
UNLESS THEY BELONG TO ONE OF MY NOT-SO-CLOSE FRIENDS...
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ANY LUCK GETTING YOUR LEVITATOR'S LICENSE?
NO!
SINCE WHEN DID THE RIGHT TO LEVITATE EVER NEED A LICENSE, ANYWAY?!!
NEXT THING WE KNOW WE NEED A LICENSE OR PERMIT TO SNEEZE, SCRATCH OR YAWN IN PUBLIC.
I KNOW SOMEBODY WHO WAS ONCE TAXED FOR BURPING IN PUBLIC. HE WAS TOLD IT FELL UNDER AMUSEMENT TAXES.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're interested in the human condition. You're totally involved with every aspect of life. You know how to inspire others. Personally, you're organized and hard-working. You can build and begin new structures and organizations. You're both practical and artistic. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life!

Birthdate of: Henry James, novelist; Emma Thompson, actress; Leonardo da Vinci, artist/engineer/inventor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Listen to your moneymaking ideas in the next few weeks. You're hot! Expect to spend money on beautiful things for yourself and loved ones.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Fair Venus moves into your sign today, where it will stay for the next three weeks. This makes you extra-charming and attractive to everyone! (

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Solitude in beautiful surroundings will appeal to you . Many of you enjoy reading books and magazines. Plus you're curious and interested in everything!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your social life will pick up very pleasantly in the next month. Accept all invitations. Invite others to meet you at home or elsewhere. Enjoy good times with friends!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Venus is now crossing the very top of your chart. This is a wonderful time to tell someone special that you care. You feel warm and loving to everyone! (And you create a fabulous impression on others in the next few weeks.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You will adore travel if you can in the month ahead—especially travel for pleasure. Your appreciation of beautiful places and beautiful things is heightened now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Others are extremely good to you in the next few weeks. Accept all gifts that come your way. Don't worry about strings being attached. (People cannot practice generosity if you don't accept.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): In the month ahead, you have a perfect opportunity to mend broken fences with close friends and partners. It's also an excellent time to begin partnerships and to do business deals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Co-workers are very helpful and supportive of you now. You must return these good feelings. This lovely give-and-take will last for five to six weeks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Romance is in your soul now! The next month is a perfect time for a vacation, romance and love affairs, and to enjoy sports of any kind.

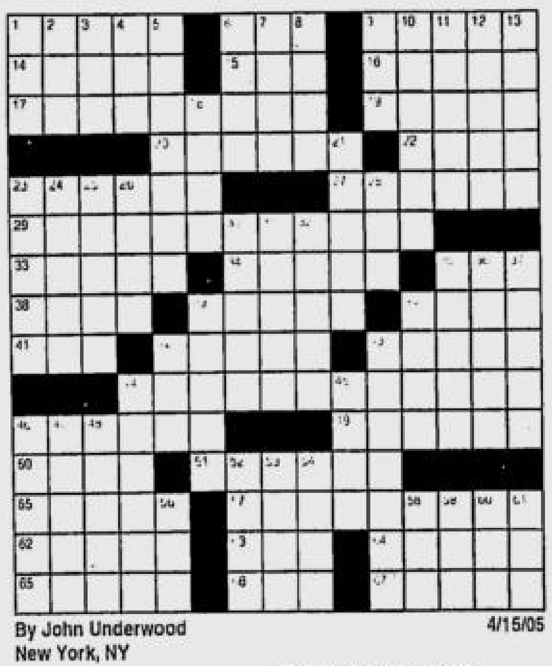
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You want to buy beautiful things for your home in the next few weeks. The month ahead is also an excellent time for real estate deals.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): In the next few weeks, you will definitely have an opportunity to see just how much love there is in your daily life. Tell siblings you care.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Merciless
6 Weasel sound?
9 Beet with thick stalks
14 Simpson or Astaire
15 Paris street
16 Old or New Indian city
17 Military award for heroism
19 Place to be teased?
20 Bootlick
22 Bowling alley
23 Fanfare
27 One or the other
29 Pudding flavor
33 Kett and James
34 Score
35 Xenon or neon
38 Bellicose god
39 "Bad, Bad __ Brown"
40 Stockings
41 Sea to Debussy
42 Leave-taking
43 Partner of desist
44 Like some swimming pools
46 Heavenly
49 Theological dissent
50 Discharge
51 __-faire
55 Valletta's island
57 Madame Tussaud's, e.g.
62 Eyed rudely
63 Flagon filler
64 Model wood
65 This puzzle amounts to a hill of __
66 Japanese capital?
67 Up to now

DOWN
1 "Star Wars" Solo
2 Orthodontists grp.
3 Goose the gas
4 Slightly shifty
5 Acts the audience loudmouth
6 Stern's opposite
7 Dislodge
8 Cozumel coin
9 IRA choices
10 Part of OSHA
11 Koran deity
12 River to the Gulf of Lions
13 Place for eats
18 Imitate Leo
21 With obvious moisture
23 Lettered girder
24 Off-the-wall
25 Whiskered swimmer
26 Sch. orgs.
28 Haughtily aloof
30 Writer Gertrude
31 Chili con __
32 School subject suffix
35 Freak out
36 Pack animals
37 Run-down
39 Valuable veins
40 Get wind of
42 Sloe __ fizz
43 Small angels
44 Young cat
45 Wedge
46 Check out of the RAF
47 Reflection
48 Country home
52 On vacation
53 Latin farewell
54 Team in a yoke
56 Want __
58 __ Paulo, Brazil
59 Reindeer tender, maybe
60 Made in the __
61 Disfigure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38 39 40
41 42 43
44 45
46 47 48 49
50 51 52 53 54
55 56 57 58 59 60 61
62 63 64
65 66 67

By John Underwood
New York, NY

4/15/05

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	D	■	G	A	G	S	■	E	J	E	C	T
A	L	E	E	■	E	R	N	E	■	T	O	R	A	H
T	O	N	I	■	N	E	A	R	■	A	T	O	N	E
T	H	E	G	R	E	A	T	E	S	T	■	S	E	E
Y	A	W	N	E	R	■	■	N	E	S	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	N	A	P	P	E	R	■	L	U	M	P
E	O	N	■	A	L	I	A	■	■	I	O	T	A	S
D	R	E	A	M	S	A	R	E	A	L	W	A	Y	S
G	E	E	S	E	■	■	T	E	L	L	■	H	O	T
Y	O	R	K	■	P	H	I	L	L	I	P	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	L	U	E	■	■	A	N	I	S	E	S
E	G	O	■	U	N	R	E	A	L	I	S	T	I	C
L	A	S	E	R	■	O	L	E	O	■	C	O	D	A
L	I	L	A	C	■	E	A	R	N	■	E	V	E	R
S	L	O	T	H	■	S	L	O	G	■	S	E	R	E

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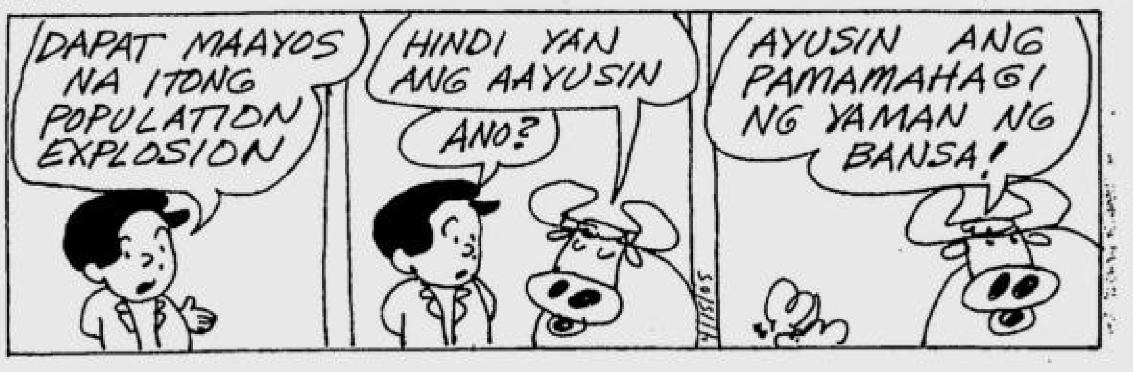
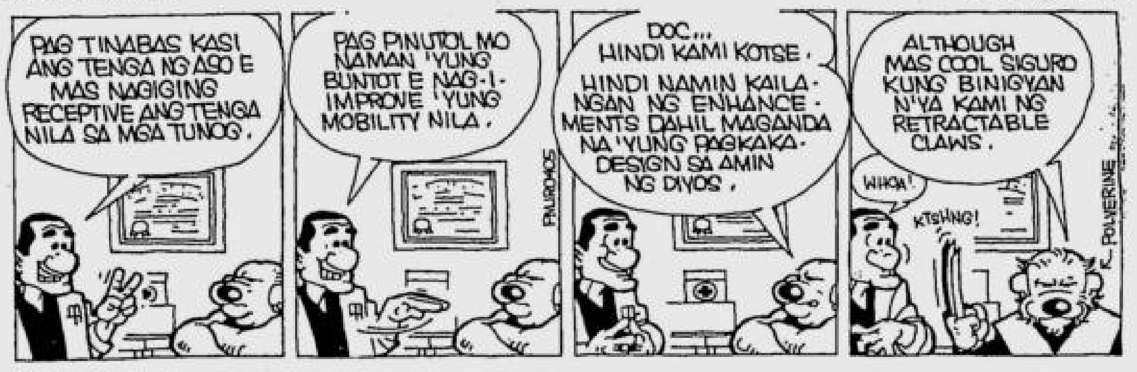
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT MAAYOS NA ITONG POPULATION EXPLOSION
HINDI YAN ANG AAYUSIN
ANO?
AYUSIN ANG PAMAMAHAGI NG YAMAN NG BANSA!

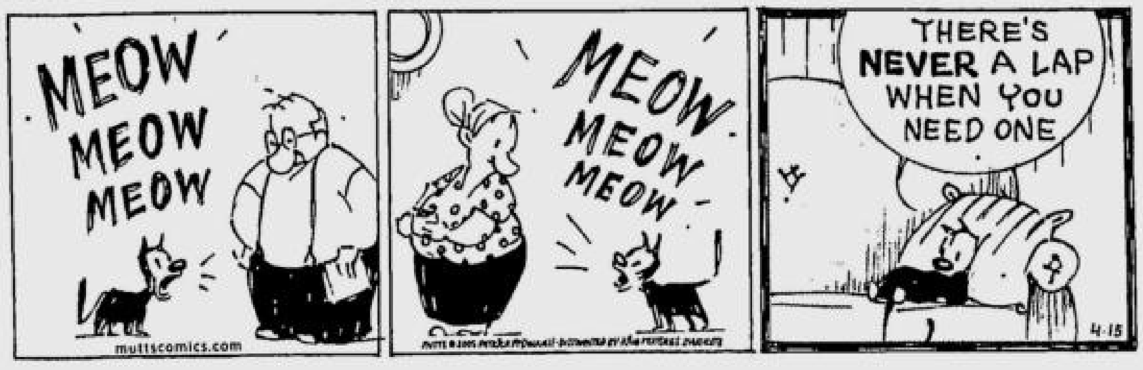
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAG TINABAS KASI ANG TENGA NG ASO E MAS NAGIGING RECEPTIVE ANG TENGA NILA SA MGA TUNOG.
PAG PINUTOL MO NAMAN 'YUNG BUNTOT E NAG-I-IMPROVE 'YUNG MOBILITY NILA.
PAUROMOS
DOC... HINDI KAMI KOTSE.
HINDI NAMIN KAILANGAN NG ENHANCEMENTS DAHIL MAGANDA NA 'YUNG PAGKAKA-DESIGN SA AMIN NG DIYOS.
ALTHOUGH MAS COOL SIGURO KUNG BINIGYAN N'YA KAMI NG RETRACTABLE CLAWS.
WHOA!
KTSHING!
K-POLVERINE

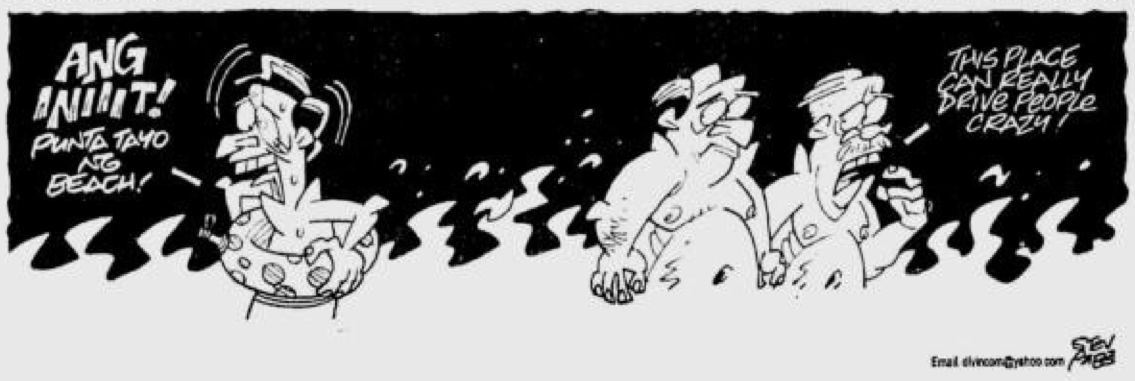
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MEOW MEOW MEOW
MEOW MEOW MEOW
THERE'S NEVER A LAP WHEN YOU NEED ONE
muttscomics.com
4-15

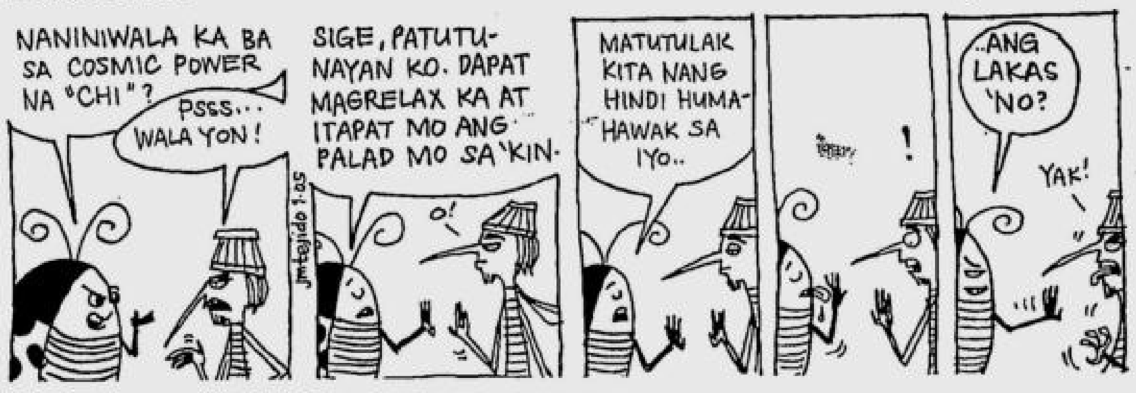
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ANG INIIT! PUNTA TAYO NG BEACH!
THIS PLACE CAN REALLY DRIVE PEOPLE CRAZY!
Email divincom@yahoo.com
STEV PABS

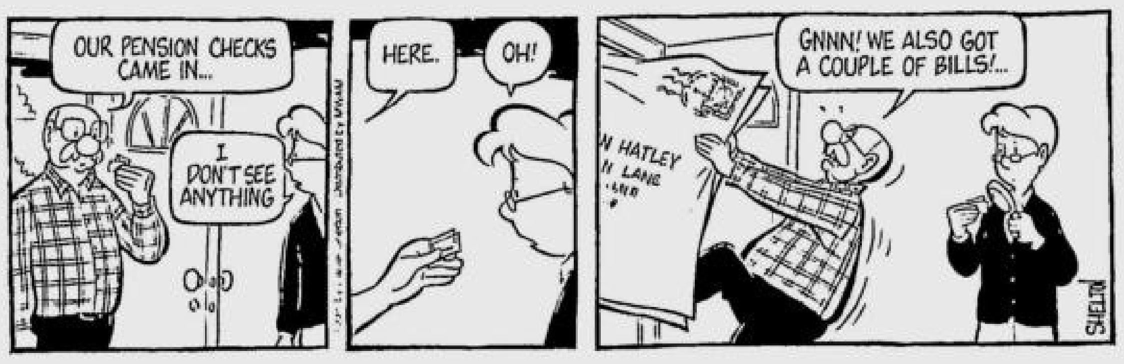
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NANINIWALA KA BA SA COSMIC POWER NA "CHI"?
PSSS... WALA YON!
SIGE, PATUTUNAYAN KO. DAPAT MAGRELAX KA AT ITAPAT MO ANG PALAD MO SA'KIN.
O!
jmtejido 1-05
MATUTULAK KITA NANG HINDI HUMAHAWAK SA IYO..
!
..ANG LAKAS 'NO?
YAK!

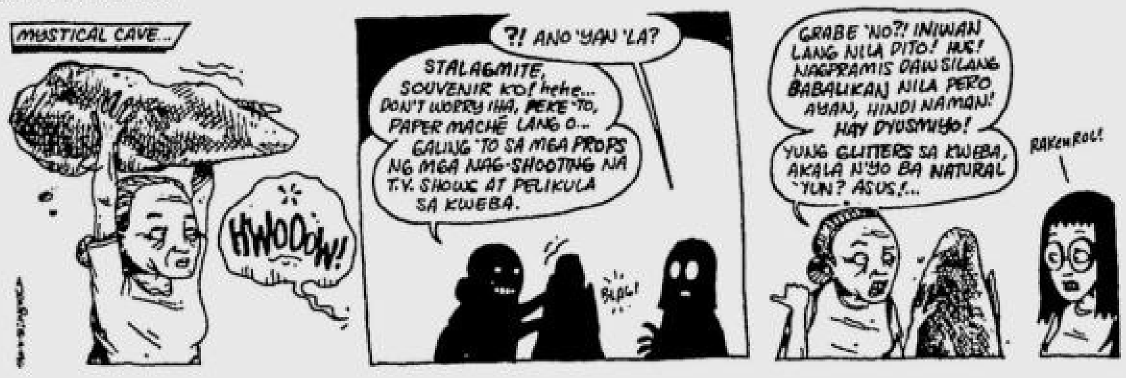
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OUR PENSION CHECKS CAME IN...
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING
HERE.
OH!
GNNN! WE ALSO GOT A COUPLE OF BILLS!...
SHELTON

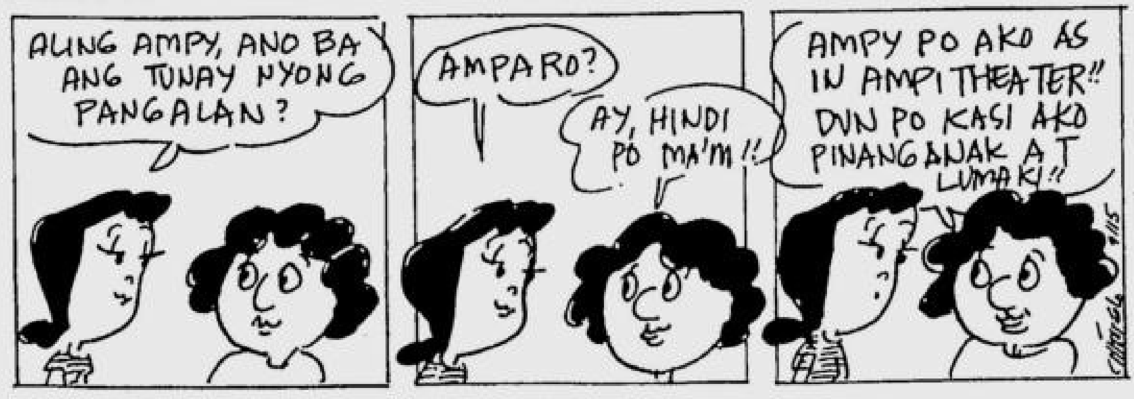
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


MYSTICAL CAVE...
HWOOOW!
?! ANO 'YAN 'LA?
STALAGMITE, SOUVENIR KO! hehe... DON'T WORRY IHA, PEKE 'TO, PAPER MACHÉ LANG O..
GALING 'TO SA MGA PROPS NG MGA NAG-SHOOTING NA T.V. SHOWS AT PELIKULA SA KWEBA.
BLAG!
GRABE 'NO?! INIWAN LANG NILA DITO! HUS! NAGPRAMIS DAW SILANG BABALIKAN NILA PERO AYAN, HINDI NAMAN! HAY DYUSMIYO!
YUNG GLITTERS SA KWEBA, AKALA N'YO BA NATURAL 'YUN? ASUS!..
RAKENROL!

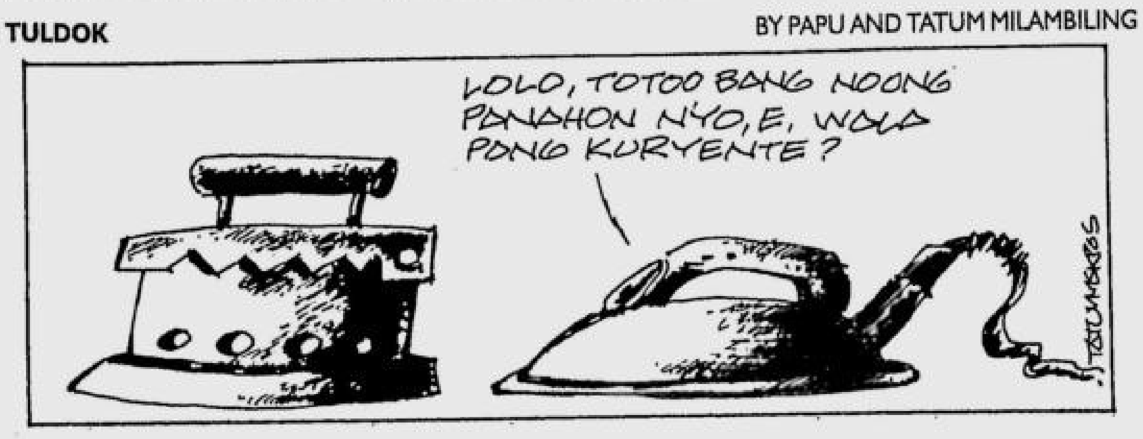
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALING AMPY, ANO BA ANG TUNAY NYONG PANGALAN?
AMPARO?
AY, HINDI PO MA'M!!
AMPY PO AKO AS IN AMPITHEATER!! DUN PO KASI AKO PINANGANAK AT LUMAKI!!
CHIONGLO 4/15

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


LOLO, TOTOO BANG NOONG PANAHON NYO, E, WALA PONG KURYENTE?
TATUMKOBS

Hairstyling guru presents spring/summer looks in PHA

ANTHONY Whitaker, Schwarzkopf's Global Ambassador

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed hairstyling guru, Antony Whitaker, will present Schwarzkopf Professional's Essential Looks for Spring/Summer 2005 during the Philippine Hairdressing Awards 2005 on April 26 at the Isla Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

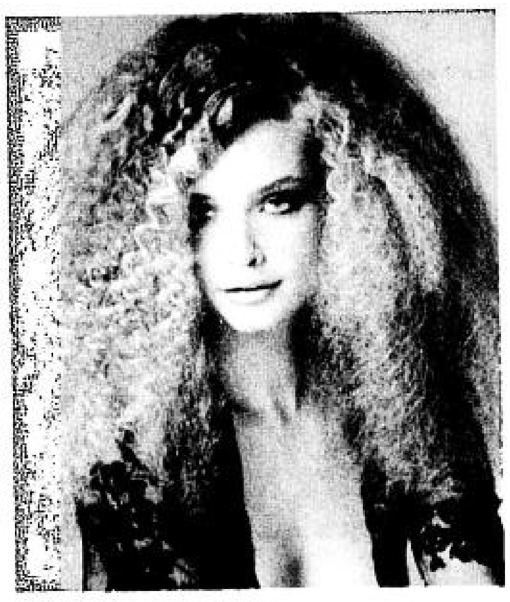
He will reveal the season's hair and fashion forecast together with Schwarzkopf Philippine Ambassador Alex Carbonell in a hair show.

Whitaker will also conduct a Cut and Color Trend Seminar on April 27, 1-5 p.m., at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

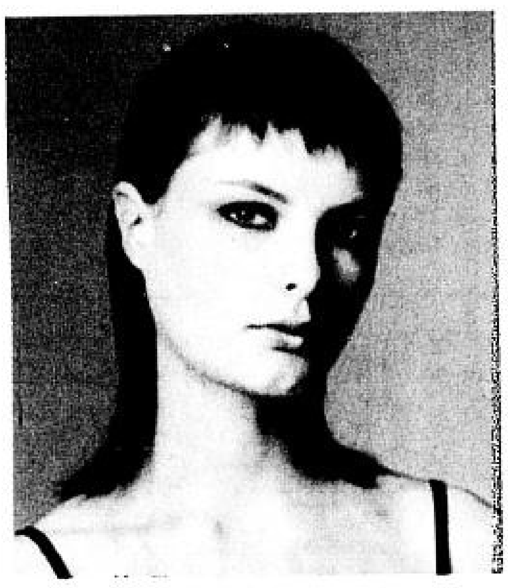
As Schwarzkopf's Global Ambassador, Whitaker performs at hairdressing shows, business and motivational seminars worldwide. Alex Carbonell is also the creative director of Propaganda Salon and creative learning director of Fix Bench Salon.

PHA is one of the much awaited hairdressing events in the country that recognizes today's top hairstylists. Categories include Commercial, Avant Garde, Men's, Newcomer of the Year and Team of the Year. The winners in all five categories will compete in their respective categories in the Asia Hairdressing Awards to be held in Taiwan in October. The Asia Hairdresser of the Year champion will be Schwarzkopf Professional's special guest during the forthcoming British Hairdressing Awards ceremony in London.

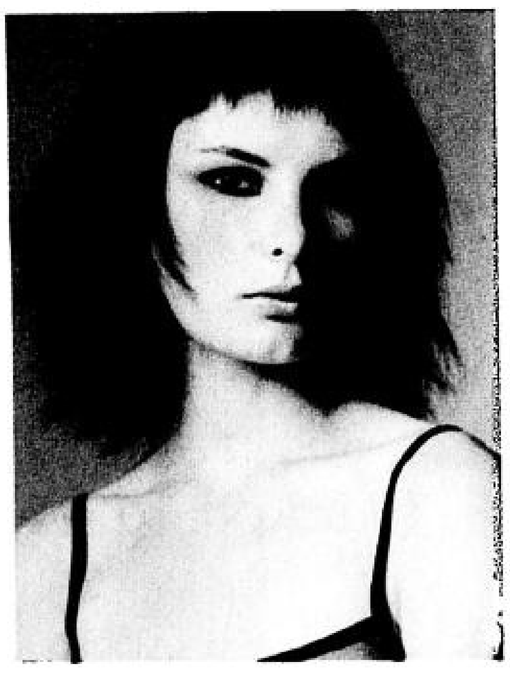
Call 7268507 to 08, 7231763 and 7228474.



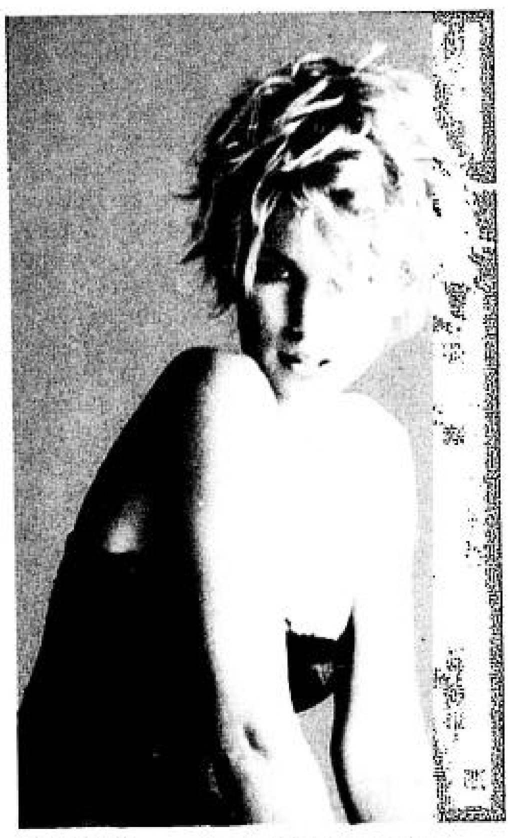
SLIGHTLY layered haircut, set on spiral rods with Osis Grip creating bigger curls on the roots and getting tight on mid-lengths to ends



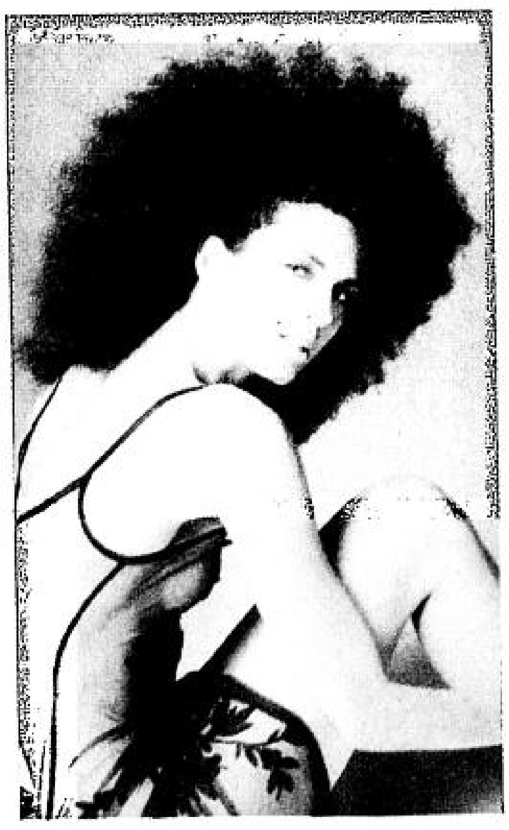
STYLED flat with Osis Goo Gel mixed with Osis Magic for additional shine and gloss



GRADUATED cut with an external short fringy hairline and styled with Osis Mess Up



SLIGHTLY wavy short layered cut, styled with Osis Thrill



LONG graduated haircut, styled by weaving hair with U-pins with Osis Grip to create tight frizzy curls for volume and shape

Day of decadence

From page H1

were no extractions done but my face felt so clean, soft and healthy with flushed pink cheeks.

I left the place with a bag of Phytomer anti-cellulite body products which I had tried before and worked. I got the exfoliating seaweed soap, Body Contour emulsion for burning fat and the Body Declic anti-cellulite cream. The last two are to be applied morning and night every day. For best results, the Body contour emulsion should be left to dry for about five to 10 minutes then apply the anti-cellulite cream after.

Next stop at 4 p.m. was The Fort Strip's You Hair and Body Salon where I tried the Carita Hair spa. They booked me for the greasy hair and scalp treatment and the hair scrub sort of smelled like Chippy snacks. After the treatment, though, my scalp was gleaming healthy and dandruff-free. The scalp got great exfoliation and my hair was full of body and shine. I was told that greasy hair is the one most likely to go bald due to oil clogging the hair opening at the scalp, blocking oxygen flow, causing hair follicle to die out, close up and not allow new hair to grow. Call Hair and Body Salon at 8181968.

Last stop was Neo Day Spa, also at The Fort, for my Decleor detoxifying massage. Call Neo Day Spa at 8158233. There are actually four different Decleor massages: 1). Detox—targets fatty areas, eliminates toxins, reduces water retention and refines overall skin texture; 2) Relax—melts away feelings of tension all throughout the body. Refreshing and calming vapors gently awaken the senses and bring an overwhelming sense of peace; 3)Tonic—anti-aging massage that tones the skin; 4) Flow—stimulating essential oils relieve tired muscles and soothe aches and pains. I chose the detox massage due to water retention brought about by PMS. I headed out for my first meal of the day at 7:30 p.m. looking as relaxed as can be.

Announcement: Hairdresser Louis Philippe Kee is now at Salon de Ken, located at C. Palanca Street, Legaspi Village, Makati. Call 8928352. Louis is best known for Vavoom hairstyles and customized highlights. I have tried the Salon's waxing services and Ella did a fantastic job with eyebrows, underarms and bikini area.

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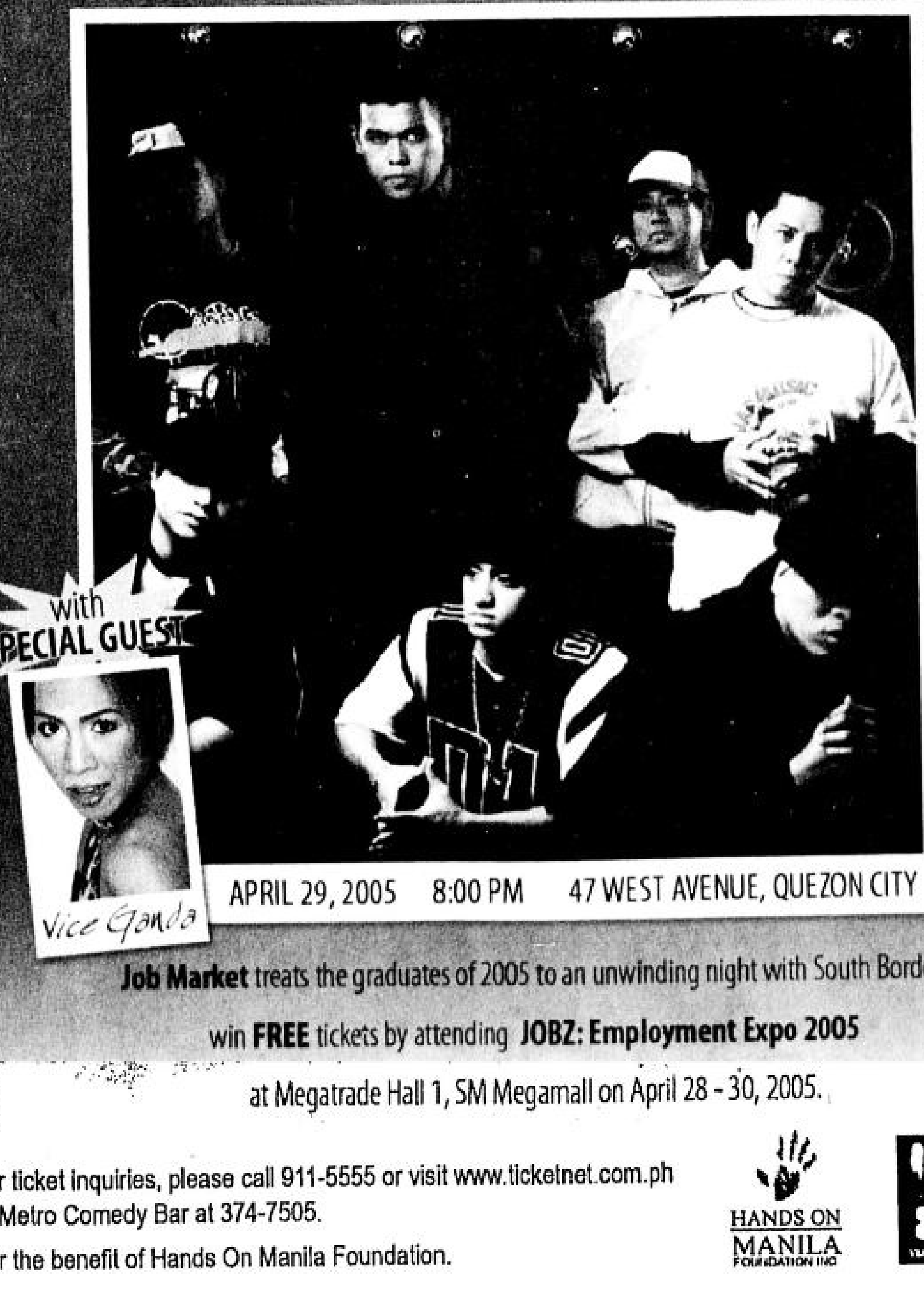

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WAVE 89.1

Different kinds of white

By Allison W. Lopez

BRONZE skin may be the trend this summer but, for the rest of the year, fair, flawless complexion remains the goal of many women the world over.

So in Connecticut, United States, where Unilever's Skin Global Innovation Center is, 60 out of 300 scientists are committed to helping women achieve "rosy white skin." The scientists, who come from different parts of the globe, use their diverse backgrounds to understand women's skin-whitening needs.

"We must know completely what [color] a woman from India, from the Philippines, wants... we don't want them to be just white-white," says Dr. John Bartolone, Unilever's global research and development (R&D) skin-face care director.

Bartolone says Japanese women want immaculate-white perfection without a single blemish on their faces. Other women simply want clearer, brighter skin that's slightly lighter than their present complexion.

Bartolone, who has been with Unilever's R&D team since 1992, was in Manila to explain the whitening science behind Pond's, the company's leading skin-care brand.

The biochemist talked about melanin, a pigment that darkens the skin, eye and hair of humans and other mammals. Killing melanin, he says, is not the solution. But this is what hydroquinone, an ingredient of some skin whitening products, does.

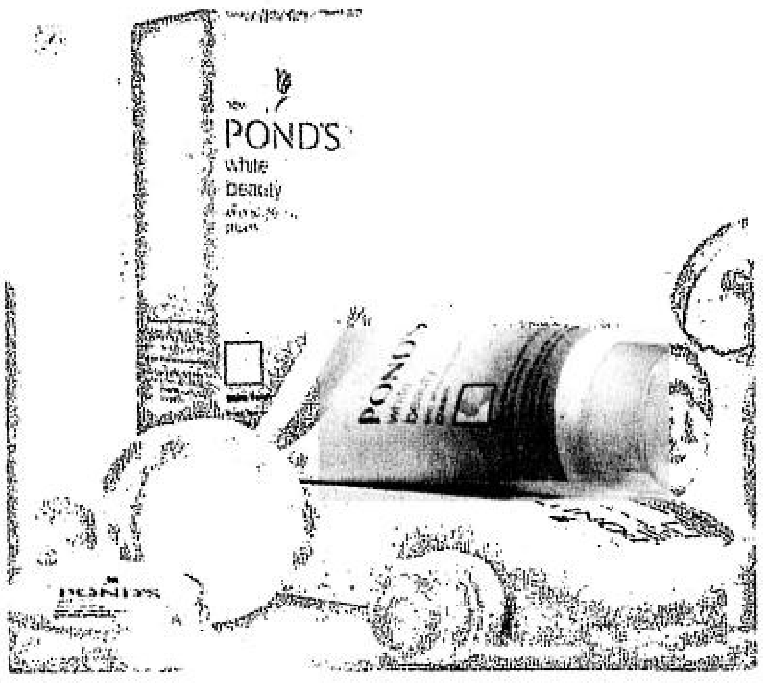
Natural

Pond's skin-whitening products, Bartolone stresses, must be both effective and safe. No peeling occurs because the main ingredient—niacinamide or Vitamin B3—"whitens the skin from within."

The water-soluble vitamin is found naturally in the body, and in fruits and vegetables, too. It is safe, non-irritating and reversible, and is definitely not a bleach.

"Pond's has been testing and safely marketing skin-lightening products for more than 25 years... throughout the world," says Bartolone. Its products are designed to provide a safe, gentle and desirable skin-lightening benefit.

Fair skin can be achieved only with a good distribution of melanin within the skin, the expert explains.



POND'S Skin Whitening Vitamin Leave-on range has a double sunscreen system that protects against both UVB and UVA rays.

Pond's scientists recognize that different women have different ideas about what fair skin is

Pond's skin-whitening technology was developed after it was observed that persons suffering from pellagra, a nutritional disease due to a deficiency in Vitamin B3, also have dark skin. Its scientists discovered that Vitamin B3 lightened the skin through its unique effect on the distribution of melanin within the skin.

DR. John Bartolone, Unilever's skin-face care director

Fairer skin requires protection from the sun's harsh rays and that means sunscreen. But not just any sunscreen will do.

Right sunscreen

"The best sunscreens have to block most of the UV [ultraviolet] spectrum. Just because it's SPF 30 doesn't mean it's good enough for you. SPF [sun protection factor] is only for UVB and not UVA," explains Bartolone.

UVB affects the outer layer of skin and is the primary cause of sunburns. Once thought to cause minor skin damage, recent studies show UVA is actually a major contributor to skin damage as it penetrates deeper into the skin.

While UVB does not penetrate glass, UVA can, and its intensity is more constant without variations during the day and throughout the year.

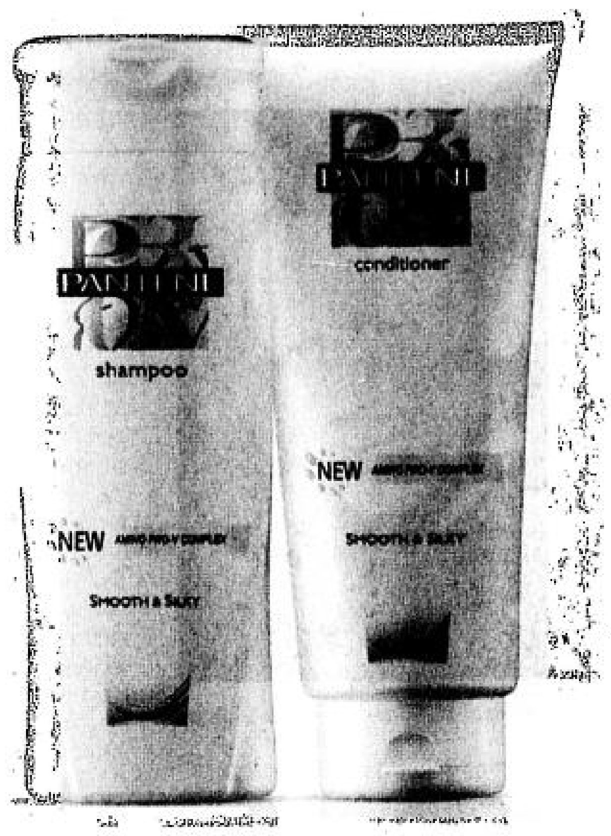
Pond's Skin Whitening Vitamin Leave-on range uses a patented double sunscreen system to prevent skin darkening due to both UVB and UVA. The system, combined with the lightening effect of Vitamin B3, produces a noticeable change in just two weeks.

The brand's latest whitening line offers more choices with its wide variety of textures. You can choose from three variants to complement the Whitening Facial Wash.

The Whitening Cream is for a sleek, matte finish; Whitening Fluid for an ultra-light, natural finish; and the Whitening Pearl Cream for a delicate, powder-smooth finish.

Vitamin C and Vitamin E, both antioxidants (substances that fight the harmful oxygen free radicals), were added to the products to nourish the skin.

After all, whitening is not just about fairer skin. It's also about achieving clearer, brighter skin—not a pasty and dull white—safely.



NEW PANTENE Smooth and Silky with Amino Pro-V Complex

Straight hair with body and shine in vogue

SAY GOODBYE to the rebonded or flat and straight hair look.

The full and straight hair look is in as it dominates this year's Spring/Summer collection currently shown on the catwalks of London, Paris, Milan and New York.

A recent study was conducted among Filipinas aged 18-24 by the research and development group of Procter & Gamble, makers of Pantene. It showed that most of them now want straight hair that is full of body against the rebonded but flat hair that was the trend in 2003 and 2004.

The study revealed that "Filipinas like to straighten their hair but sometimes their hair tends to look too flat; they wish they could get both—straight hair that is full of body."

The full and straight hair look can best be achieved by using New Pantene Smooth and Silky with Amino Pro-V Complex. It is especially formulated to give substance to each hair strand that helps transform flat hair to full and straight hair that bounces with body and shine. The Amino Pro-V Complex helps hair regain its inner strength as it penetrates deep into the hair, giving you healthy, beautiful hair.

The new Pantene hair care range has also developed a new fragrance called Asian Zest that personifies the aura of the Pantene Asian woman - natural, confident, approachable and friendly.

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LIFESTYLE

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ROLAND Lirio's idea of formal wear is actually resort wear.

Not strictly formal

Day 8 of Philippine Fashion Week was billed as the luxe collection but some clothes didn't measure up

JUN Escario's crowd-pleasers are draped and close to the body.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE EVENT was billed as the "Luxe Formal Collection," yet there was nothing luxurious nor formal about the clothes some of the designers showed on Day 8 of the recently concluded Philippine Fashion Week at The Fort's NBC Tent. Instead, what they showed was a hodgepodge of printed and tiered resort dresses in such fabrics as chiffon and jersey.

Erwin Tan presented several crocheted pieces, while Eric Sapaula paid homage to Martha Stewart with fitted tees emblazoned with the disgraced icon's name. He then paired off his casual tops with either cropped or bootleg pants made of indigenous fabric.

There were a few gems in their respective collections, but to call them "formal" was indeed a bit of a stretch on the part of both fashion designers and organizers. (Come to think of it, designers grouped under the "Grand Allure Collection," the week's concluding event, were perhaps worse off -- *see related story on J1.)*

What if people found their pieces, particu-

NOT STRICTLY/ I2

JC Buendia's attention to construction does the talking.

Healthy skin with clay.
Healthy eyes with Visine Refresh.

When your eyes get stressed, exposed to pollution or the sun's harmful rays, they can become dry, scratchy and irritated. Pamper them daily with gentle-as-tears Visine Refresh, so they'll always be in top form. Visine Refresh. Refreshes like natural tears.

Visine* Refresh

DANILO Franco's toned-down attempt to reach out to a younger market

COLOR-SAVVY Eric Sapaula fails to measure up when it comes to fitting

AS if the huge skirt isn't enough, John Herrera opts for shocking red.

A CROCHETED dress by Erwin Tan is feminine, but far from luxurious.

A 1950s-inspired number with quilted lantern skirt by Edgar Madamba

COCKTAIL dress with exaggerated kimono sleeves in chiffon and jersey by Dodgie Batu

Not strictly formal

From page 11

larly those resurrected no-brainers, far from, well, alluring?)

Bouncy, not formal

Tippi Ocampo's printed empire dresses with satin trims and ribbons, for instance, were for her Pret-a-Party label aimed at a ready-to-wear market. In fairness to the designer, who'll still be doing couture, the playful dresses managed to maintain their bounce despite her use of nude lining.

Roland Lirio combined printed with tiered, ruffled and corded chiffon in delicious shades of orange to come up with beach party staples. Sapaula also showed an eye for combining colors, but failed when it came to fitting. His men's pastel jackets were either a bit loose or improperly cropped and hemmed to show off those shorts.

From where we sat, however, we didn't need Superman's X-ray vision to see how Egay Ayag's dresses puckered from poor construction. Not to mention that they fell short on design sensibility.

Halston-inspired

Speaking of construction, JC Buendia didn't show anything radical with his baby-pink silk gazar dresses and dark pin-stripped suits reportedly inspired by Halston. Instead he allowed his expertise in tailoring to do the talking by fashioning impeccably constructed and wearable clothes, some of which were wrap halters with hints of beadwork.

If Buendia and several other designers had wearability in mind, this attribute seemed to have eluded John Herrera, who fashioned walking loofahs in the form of humongous and shapeless tulle skirts that seemed to double as highly visible force fields. Touch them at your own risk!

In contrast, veteran designers Ole Morabe and Danilo Franco were able to come up with attractive yet wearable skirts that drew on their respective strengths.

Lacework

Franco, of course, is noted for his larger-than-life pieces. This time, though, he pared down his collection with semi-beaded dresses and tiered skirts made of rich Chantilly lace, in such shades as red, gold and copper. The result was a younger, more wearable line.

The meticulous Morabe reportedly paid tribute to Joe Salazar not by aping his style, but by drawing inspiration from the rose, a symbol the late, great designer was closely identified with.

This was evident in Morabe's skirts made of voile, organza, silk, organdy and *jusi*, which he made the center of attention and medium for his latest inspiration. Instead of resorting to floral appliqués, however, he fashioned each "rose" from a series of reverse darts in various shapes and forms without sacrificing the skirts' shape.

Standouts

If luxury were the show's sole criteria, two of the evening's best collections were the handiworks of Larry Espinosa and Jun Escario. While the former played with pure silk fabrics in tricky jewel colors (and got away with it!), Escario came up with sure crowd pleasers in the form of draped jersey in nude, chocolate brown, aqua and deep wine.

Escario reportedly chucked patterns and did pieces, consisting of long and short dresses and men's tops, on free forms or mannequins. The Cebu-based designer wisely steered clear of bold colors and exaggerated styling to allow the fabric's treatment to shine. He limited accessories to spider-like brooches that held the draped materials together.

Audacious pairings

After enduring a series of ho-hum clothes, the audience was jolted from their apathy by Espinosa's audacious pairing of bold shades to fashion strapless and asymmetric gowns. A sample: orange and blue green, fuchsia and royal blue, orange and electric blue.

Apart from some ruching, beading and draping, Espinosa accessorized each piece with super-long silk tassels that echo the gowns' colors. Too bad no foreign journalists and buyers came to witness, and be enthralled by, such feats of Filipino creativity.

Joey Espino, big boss at Runway Productions, and his team have once again successfully staged Fashion Week, even without government support. But now that Philippine Fashion Week is two years shy of its 10th birthday, isn't it time Espino and company started working on attracting foreigners to the Philippines?

More than just a venue for grandstanding designers, the fashion extravaganza should be viewed first and foremost as a trade show aimed at expanding the market for locally designed clothes and accessories.

Fashion Week's power to promote the Filipino designer shouldn't be underestimated nor should it be squandered on kibitzers who know next to nothing about fashion.

And while at it, organizers should desist from featuring repeat performances from the usual creatively bankrupt suspects. Despite all the frills and frivolities associated with it, fashion, after all, is serious business.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

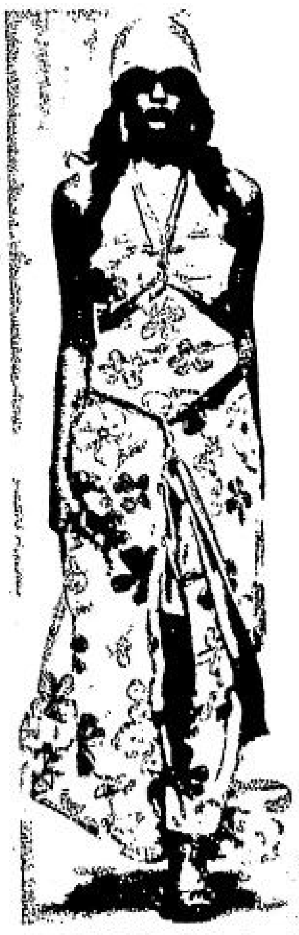
A RIOT of bold colors and tassels from the one and only Larry Espinosa.

POPOY Barba goes for the earthy and romantic look.

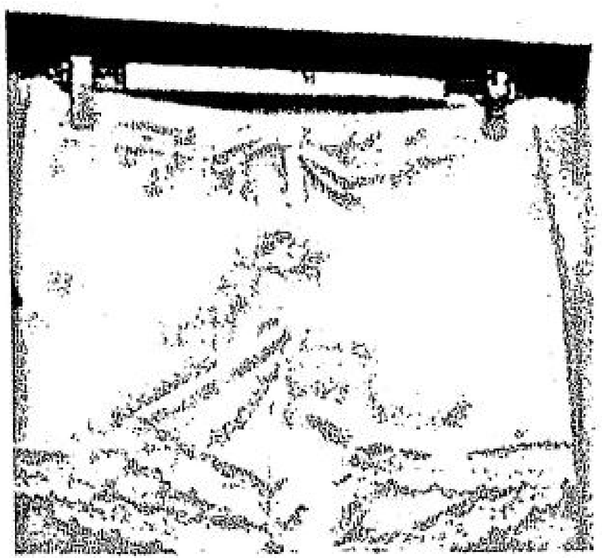
FLOWING red tunic with beaded trim by Tan

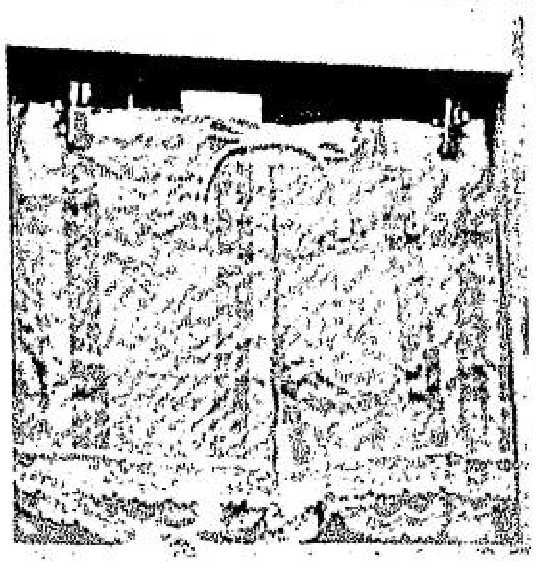
ESCARIO chooses dark or muted colors to allow draping to shine

SEMI-BEADED and sculptural dress by Aztec Barba


FREE-FLOWING bohemian dress by Tippi Ocampo

OLE Morabe forms roses on skirt through darts





LOCAL and imported brands are available at the Eastwood "City-Wide Sale."

Sales, shows and freebies at summer festival

THE MECCA of the metro's leisure set, Eastwood City, is holding the "City-Wide Sale" April 15-17 where visitors and regular habitues can enjoy special savings on a wide selection of goods, merchandise and dining pleasure at drastically reduced prices. The latest styles will be presented at a nightly fashion show at the Eastwood City Walk 2 starting April 14.

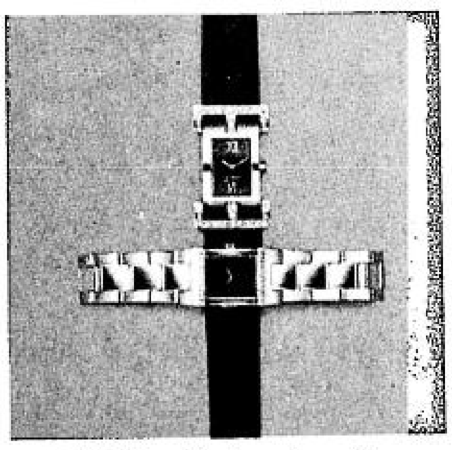
There will also be a "Fashion Flaunt Exhibit" at the City Walk 2 April 14-20. The interactive exhibit will feature the 2005 summer collections of Speedo, Planet Silver, BA-YO and the latest Havaianas from the Chocolate Clothing Company. The Body Shop is offering a "free hand massage," and a summer look makeover, while Planet Silver will have a glitter tattooing on April 16.

The Mediterranean-inspired City Walks 1 and 2 have quaint shops selling the most popular brands, both local and imported.

Orchard Road, on the other hand, is the site of the new Style Centrale and its 25 specialty boutiques.

The perfect nightcap to a delicious, hearty meal, after all that shopping, is the specially concocted "Ladies Delight" Drink of the Month from the bars and restaurants at Eastwood City. Each purchase of the Ladies Delight comes with a "free Woman's World bracelet" from Planet Silver, or the Bead Shop.

Eastwood City is located off C-5 in Libis, Quezon City.



ESPRIT'S New Black carries on the classy feel of an elegant black watch.

Timeless styles

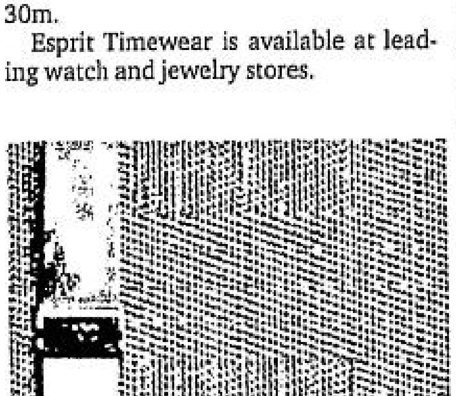
ESPRIT Timewear embraces a variety of emotions as well as the looks, styles and colors of the season.

With the "dig it orange and spaceball orange" collection, ladies love the retro-coolness of the digital display while men go for the sporty look of a chronograph that combines analog and digital timekeeping.

New Black, on the other hand, carries on the classy feel of an elegant black watch.

Esprit E-bar Black features a high-grade, masterfully polished steel housing and handle with stone trimming, a bracelet made of real leather and classic black dial. Cool Night is crafted with high-grade steel, stone trimming volume and matte-brush housing, a polished center section and sleek black dial. Both styles are absolutely waterproof up to 30m.

Esprit Timewear is available at leading watch and jewelry stores.



LADIES will love the retro-coolness of the digital display of this new Esprit collection, while men will go for the sporty look of a chronograph.

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- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches
- Berkeley Square, Commonwealth

See flyers for more details.
Per DTI Permit No. 0748 Series of 2005. Promo runs from April 1 to 30, 2005.

'Let us stop all these unwarranted criticisms'

By Edgar Allan

(Editor's note: *Designer Edgar Allan asked to be given his day in print in defense of the local fashion designer, after Lifestyle writer Cheche Moral's story on the opening show of Philippine Fashion Week came out April 1. Here is Mr. Allan's piece, untouched.)*

IN THE past two decades, worldwide fashion is now all about the mighty dollar. The prime concern is sales, and creativity is made to serve that purpose. This is because the fashion worldwide is now a billion dollar ready-to-wear industry and couture (the hand-made creation of a wardrobe for a specific client) is now a dying operation supported only by the very few rich women and encouraged by the big brand names only as a promotional and advertising ploy to enhance their brands.

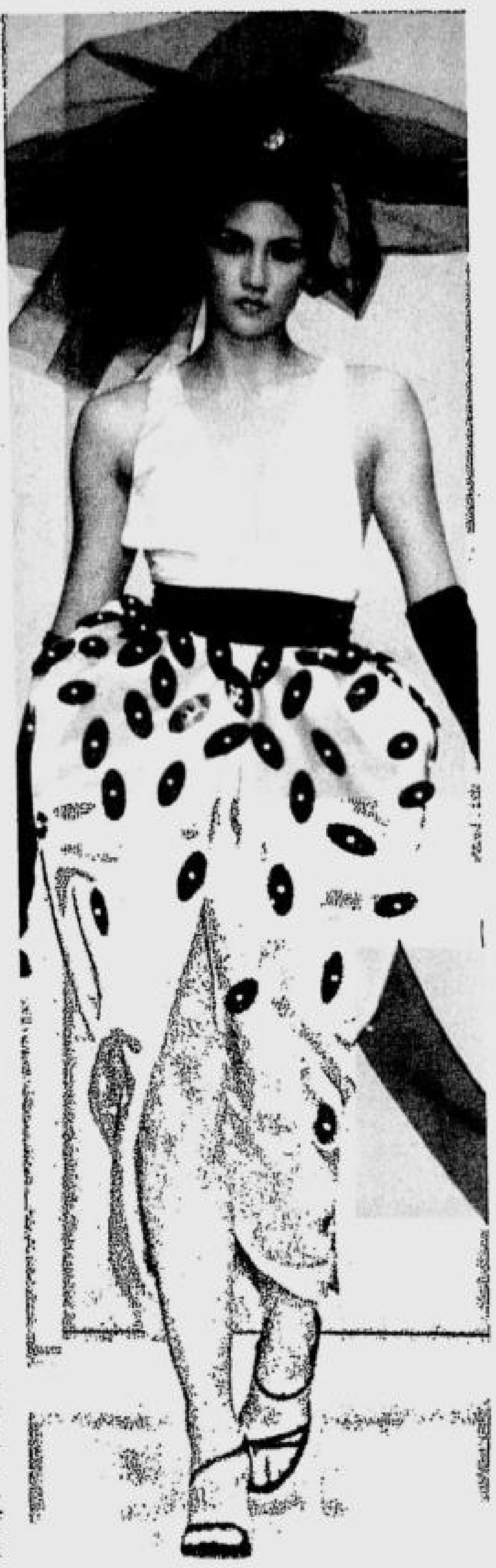
In the Philippines, ninety percent of the local fashion designers are in the couture operations. An enterprising designer can easily put up a shop, employing two or three sewers, in a neighborhood location and start his own couture operation. The other 10 percent are in the ready-to-wear operation and are either backed up by big department store chains, or small-scale manufacturers who retail their own brands in the department stores or mavericks who open up their own boutiques in the malls. These are the designers who pay particular attention to the balance sheet and the bottom line, costs and sales. The other ninety percent, operate on sheer talent, creativity and guts, and the loyal patronage of their clients.

Che Che Moral wrote in an ironic manner that ego has landed in Philippine Fashion Week gala night, but it is rightly so because ninety percent of the designers who where participating are in the couture operations and ego is the propelling factor that moves their creative juices. Then she goes on with her litany of comments about the works of the participating designers.

The Philippine Fashion Week should be a celebration of Filipino talent and creativity, a showcase of what the Filipino designer could achieve with his own hands when the bottom line, price and cost, is not a major concern. If it sets trends, okay; if not, then it should still be a showcase of how far can Filipino designers stretch their imagination. Those mature enough to remember the Bagong Anyo extravaganza of Imelda Marcos in the early Seventies know how much creative juices flowed when the Filipino designers were given free reign of their imagination and creativity. Creative standards were set that are still the measuring level for today's fashion practitioners. In such an atmosphere of celebration, criticism is out of place. Encouragement and guidance is the order of the day.

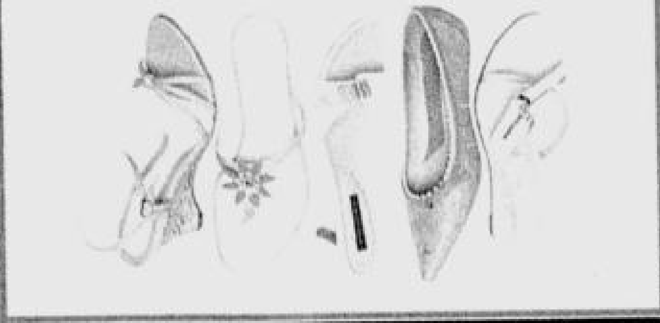
John Galliano and Tom Ford literally broke all the rules in fashion in order to set trends and promote their respective brands, and the fashion world said "Amen." Will the fashion world, so concerned with image and prestige, be so accepting with those two maverick designers if they did not come from Paris, the fashion capital of the world? Can a designer from the third world be taken seriously if he remains in his third-world setting? The Filipino fashion designer is indeed talented and creative, but unless he goes out of his third-world background, he will have difficulty ascending the world fashion stage concerned with images of a certain type of lifestyle that has nothing to do with third world realities.

So let us stop all these unwarranted criticisms and let Philippine Fashion Week be truly a celebration of the Filipino fashion designer's capacity to burst into heights of fantasy and imagination and creativity. Perhaps a brave international ready-to-wear manufacturer will take notice of one talent and support that talent in the world arena. But even if that does not happen, the celebration goes on because what we celebrate is not the business of fashion but the creativity of fashion as explored by the Filipino fashion designer.



DRESS by Edgar Allan shown on gala night of the 2005 Philippine Fashion Week

PHOTO: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



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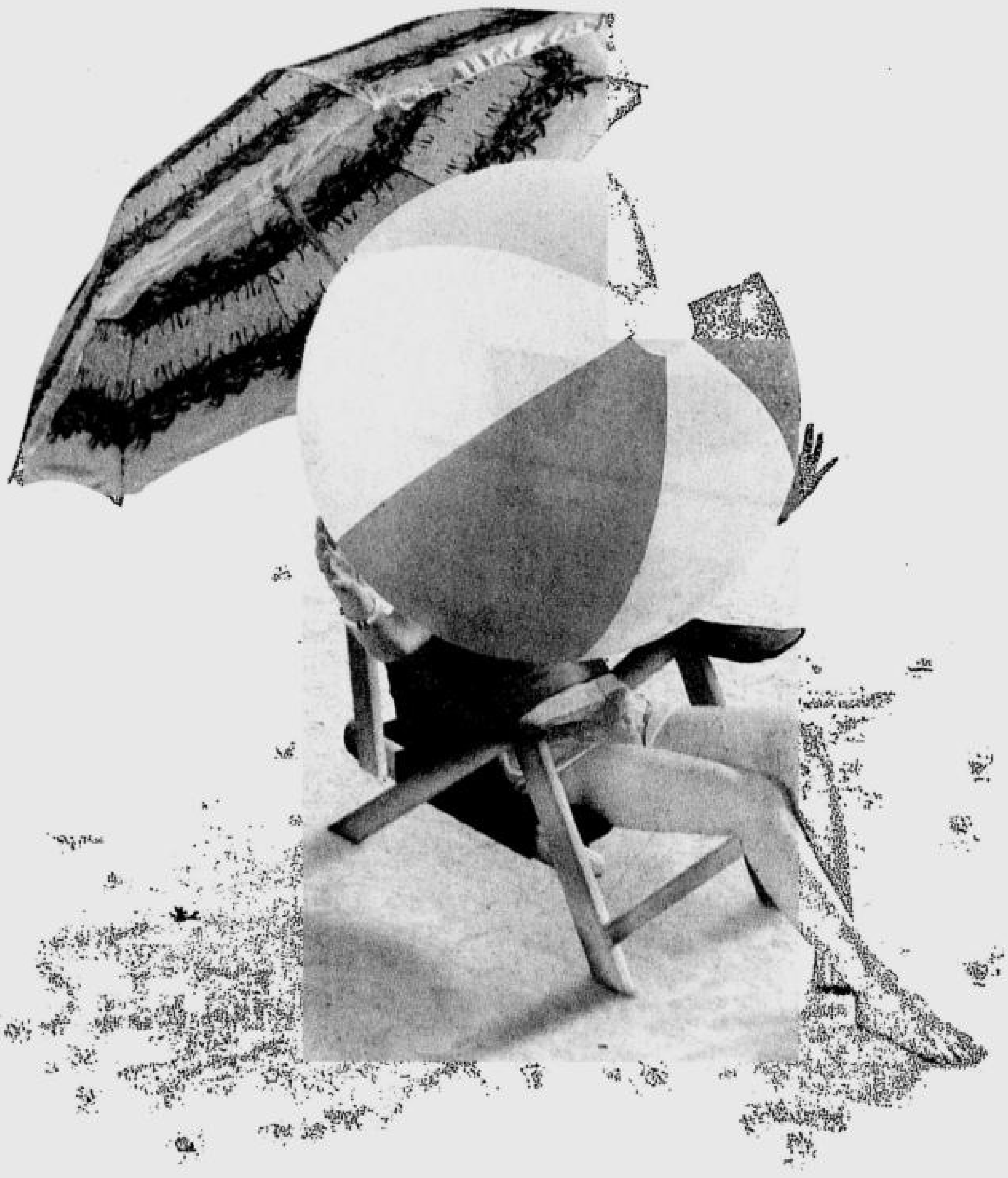

Heat Wave
Summer Activities for April

[illegible] (872-5249)
April 8, 22 - Voice Workshop by Center for Pop @ the Wellness Hub
April 12, 13, 14 - Kiddie Sports Lessons @ the Wellness Hub
April 17 - Starstruck Avengers mall tour feat. LJ Reyes
April 16, 23, 30 - Sayawit Song and Dance Competition
April 19, 20, 21 - Children's Summer Art Workshop
April 24, 25 - Star Model Quest Screening
April 26, 27, 28 - Children's Poetry Writing Workshop @ the Wellness Hub

[illegible] (850-3845)
April 2 - Star in a Million Grand Finalists mall tour
April 9 - Nestle Ice Cream presents An Enchanted Circus Show
April 10 - Krystala mall tour
April 16 - Passage Band...Live!
April 24 - SCQ mall tour feat. Joross Gamboa
April 29, 30 - Star Model Quest Screening
Mondays - Ladies' Night @ Mark's Sports Bar & KTV

[illegible] (718-1886)
April 15 - Cuba Libre concert feat. Marmalade
April 16 - Jeremiah II mall tour
April 17 - Faith Cuneta album tour
April 18, 19 - Star Model Quest 2005 screening day
April 23 - Freestyle & U-Turn mall tour
April 29 - Cuba Libre concert feat. Rucados
Wednesdays & Fridays - Acoustic Nights at the Bridge

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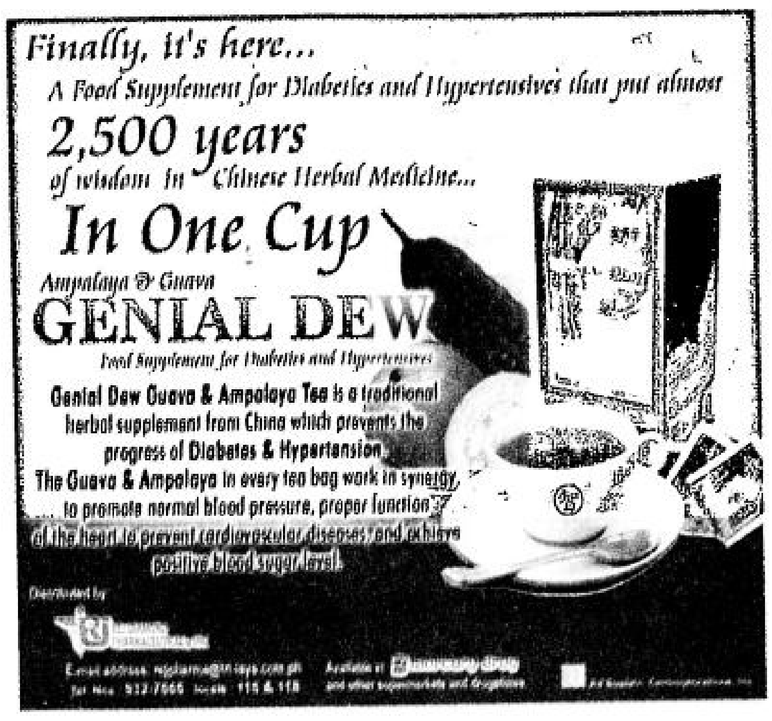
Fashion Week, fashion weak

Thank goodness for the participation of some brilliant designers or the last night would have been a total disaster

STORY ON PAGE J2

A MUCH welcome (colorful) shot in the arm for the last night of Philippine Fashion Week from Kate Torralba


Finally, it's here...
A Food Supplement for Diabetics and Hypertensives that put almost
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of wisdom in Chinese Herbal Medicine...
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Ampalaya & Guava
GENIAL DEW
Food Supplement for Diabetics and Hypertensives
Genial Dew Guava & Ampalaya Tea is a traditional herbal supplement from China which prevents the progress of Diabetes & Hypertension.
The Guava & Ampalaya in every tea bag work in synergy to promote normal blood pressure, proper function of the heart to prevent cardiovascular diseases and achieve positive blood sugar level.
Distributed by

TWO CUPS OF GENIAL DEW A DAY WILL KEEP THE DOCTOR AWAY!

Studies show that drinking tea can make one healthier. The unique properties of green tea which help the body increase metabolism, detoxify, improve resistance from diseases and boost energy level can ensure anyone in tiptop shape.

Nowadays, a habit of drinking tea should be developed as diseases are more often borne out of unhealthy lifestyle practices. Diabetes and hypertension, the most common diseases of Filipinos today are proven to be more lifestyle-related than hereditary. Ergo, most of those who have diabetes or hypertension or both will never know if he/she has the illness unless a grave attack of the symptom would occur that would prompt a visit to a specialist. Ideally, that should not be the case. One should always remember that disease prevention is always better than looking for a disease's cure.

Diabetes and hypertension have costly maintenance medicines. But with Genial Dew, an ingenious product from the makers of Kankunis, an established slimming tea for women, comes Genial Dew Guava & Amplaya Tea. This is a concoction that combines the medicinal powers of guava and ampalaya in a tea bag to prevent and combat diabetes and hypertension. Truly a food supplement that came from natural ingredients, one need not worry about prescriptions and harmful side effects.

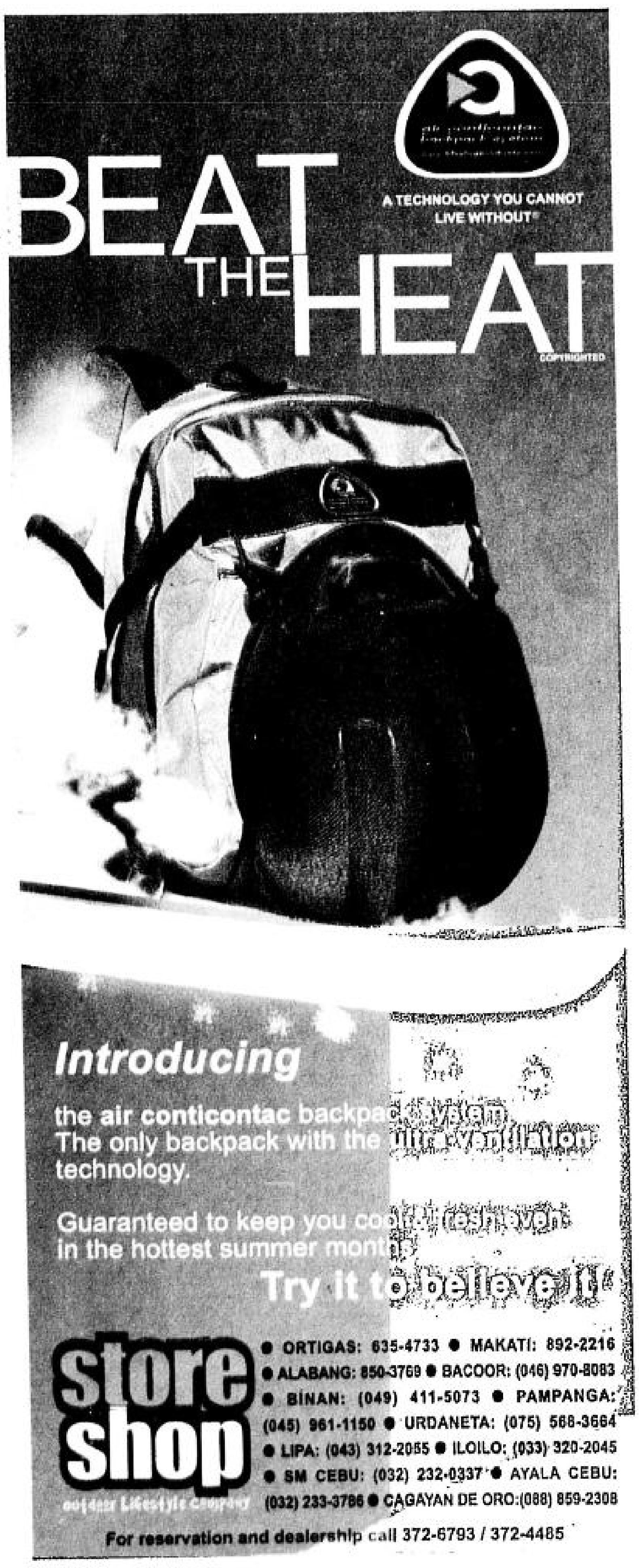
Guava which contains vitamin C that is twice as found in citrus fruits has healthful benefits for the body. It contains Amino acids which help prevent arteriosclerosis or plaques that block the blood vessels. Guava leaves contain potassium which helps maintain normal blood pressure and aids the heart to function properly. It is also found with prophylactic property that prevents complications which lead to diabetes. The ampalaya fruit which is being pushed in the market as an alternative diabetes medication is proven to lower one's cholesterol and blood sugar level. It is good for diabetics because it prevents the aggravation of the disease. Ampalaya also contains iron that makes the digestive system function well and helps increase one's appetite.

Aside from guava and ampalaya, Genial Dew also contains Kung ting tea, to tea and Millet Beard. The green tea components of Kung ting tea and To tea are responsible for reducing the cholesterol level in the body. Kung ting tea contains catechins and multivitamins that act as anti-oxidants and cancer-fighting agents. To tea has a relaxing property that calms one's senses. While Millet Beard or corn medicinal silk contains the much needed vitamins C and K. These vitamins function as stimulants and diuretics which prevent hypertension and promotes a healthy liver condition.

Genial Dew is advised for people in their 30s and up to prevent the development and/or occurrence of hypertension and diabetes. It is also a good supplement for those undergoing diabetes medication. Unlike diabetes and hypertension maintenance medication, Genial Dew is easy on the budget. Available in a box of 30's it is priced at P240 Trial packs of 5's is also available at 42. 50 or P8.50 per sachet.

Cut on soda and coffee for a healthier you. As a maintenance beverage, just steep one sachet in a hot water for 10-15 minutes.

Genial Dew is available at all Watson's Personal Care Stores nationwide It is exclusively distributed by **REJ Diamond Laboratories**, Diliman QC.
For comments email **rejpharma@tri-isys.com.ph**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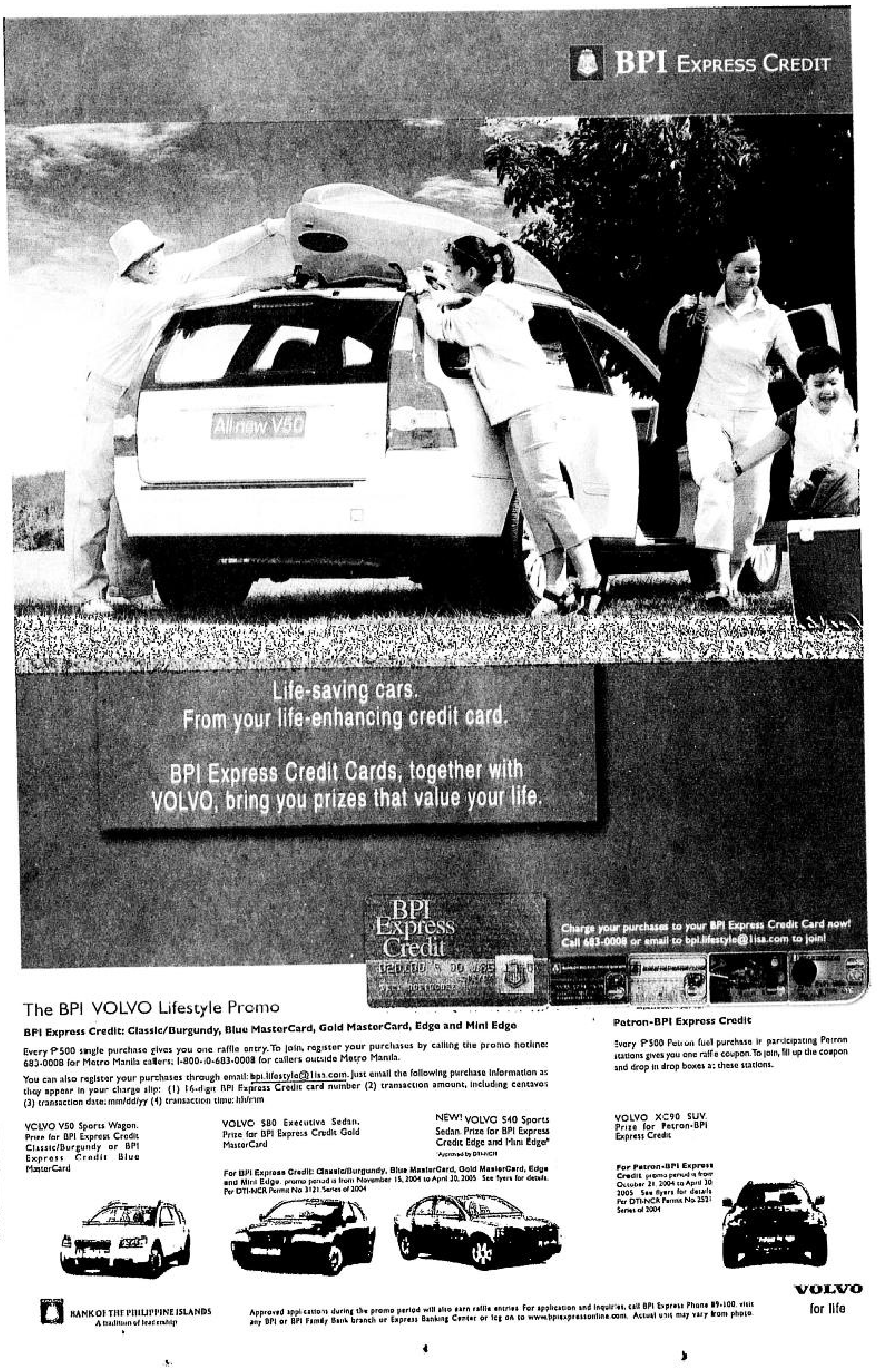
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The BPI VOLVO Lifestyle Promo

BPI Express Credit: Classic/Burgundy, Blue MasterCard, Gold MasterCard, Edge and Mini Edge

Every P500 single purchase gives you one raffle entry. To join, register your purchases by calling the promo hotline: 683-0008 for Metro Manila callers; 1-800-10-683-0008 for callers outside Metro Manila.

You can also register your purchases through email: bpi.lifestyle@1isa.com. Just email the following purchase information as they appear in your charge slip: (1) 16-digit BPI Express Credit card number (2) transaction amount, including centavos (3) transaction date: mm/dd/yy (4) transaction time: hh/mm

VOLVO V50 Sports Wagon. Prize for BPI Express Credit Classic/Burgundy or BPI Express Credit Blue MasterCard

VOLVO S80 Executive Sedan. Prize for BPI Express Credit Gold MasterCard

NEW! VOLVO S40 Sports Sedan. Prize for BPI Express Credit Edge and Mini Edge*
*Approved by DTI-NCR

For BPI Express Credit: Classic/Burgundy, Blue MasterCard, Gold MasterCard, Edge and Mini Edge, promo period is from November 15, 2004 to April 30, 2005. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3121. Series of 2004

Petron-BPI Express Credit

Every P500 Petron fuel purchase in participating Petron stations gives you one raffle coupon. To join, fill up the coupon and drop in drop boxes at these stations.

VOLVO XC90 SUV. Prize for Petron-BPI Express Credit

For Petron-BPI Express Credit, promo period is from October 21, 2004 to April 30, 2005. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2531 Series of 2004

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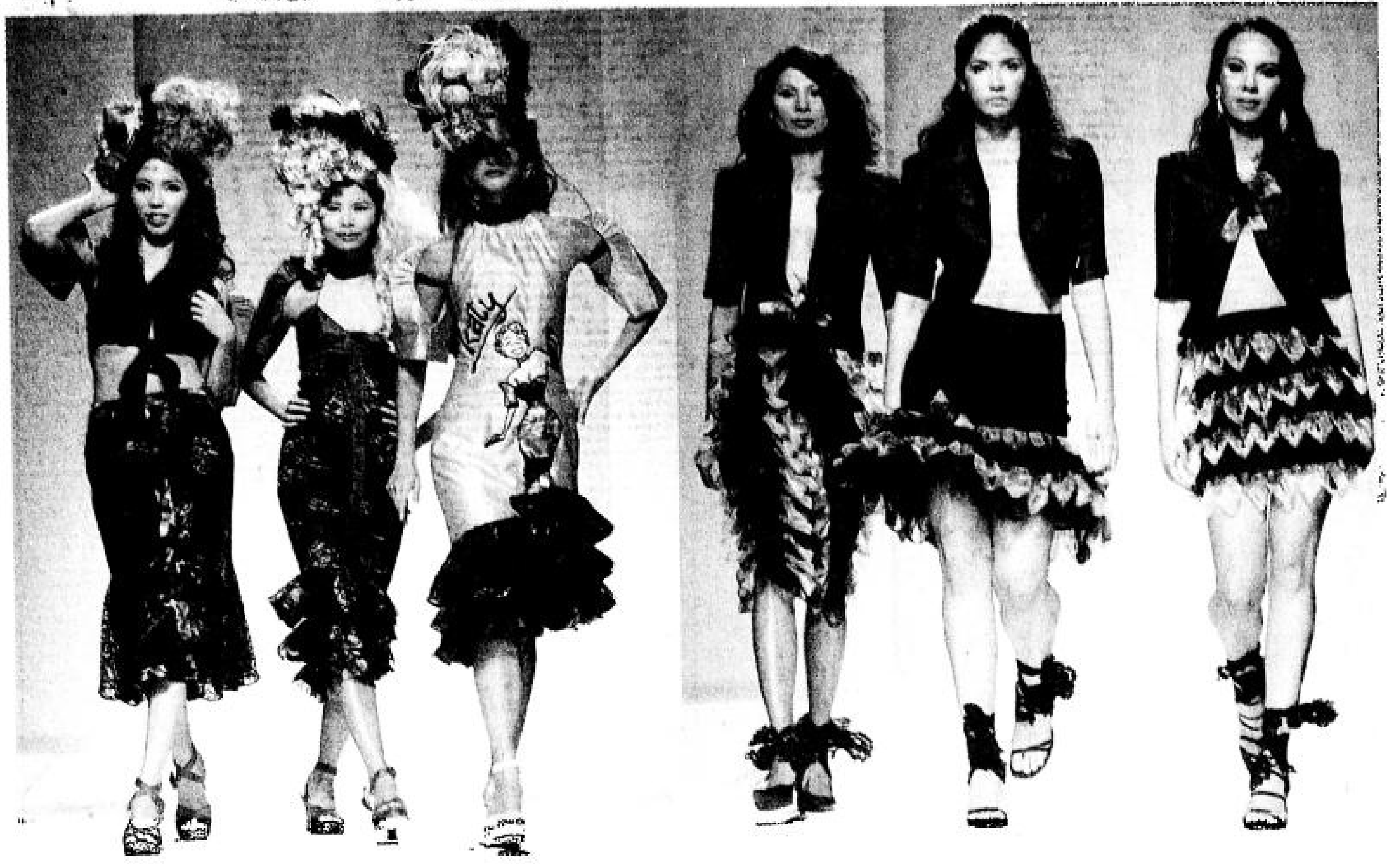
A tradition of leadership

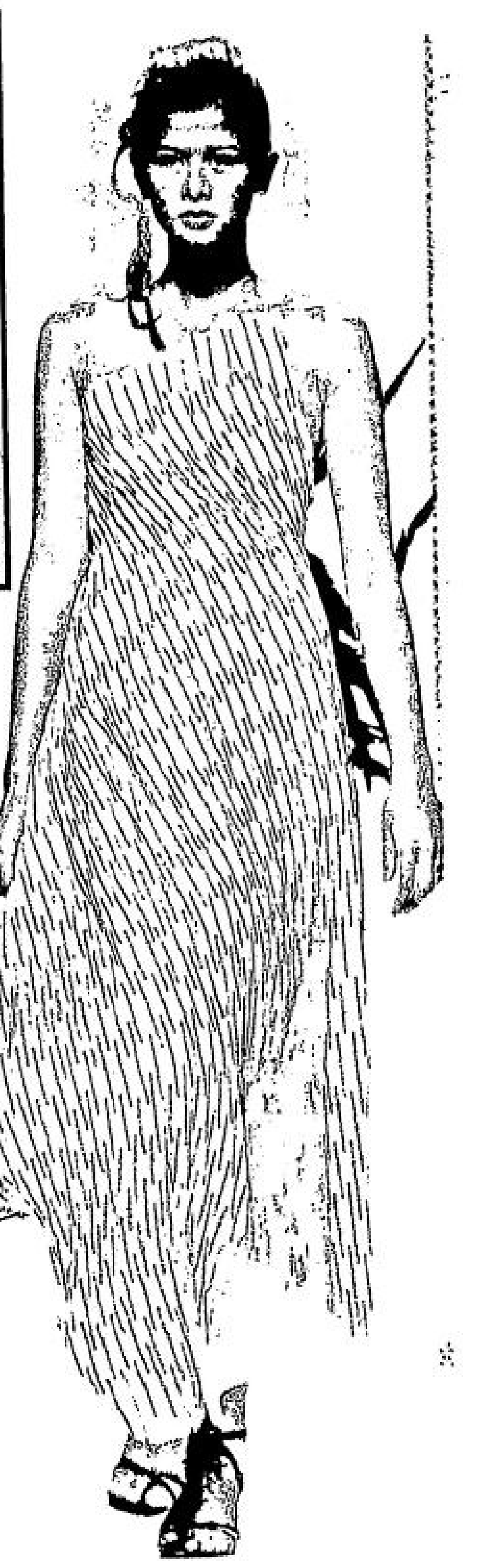
Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries. For application and inquiries, call BPI Express Phone 89-100, visit any BPI or BPI Family Bank branch or Express Banking Center or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com. Actual units may vary from photo.

VOLVO
for life



A STUDY IN CONTRAST. Edgar San Diego's fun and witty, if a tad costume-y, nod to the Filipino musical "Katy!" (at left), and Ramon Favila's ho-hum black ensembles with organza ribbons.

A DECEPTIVELY simple dress by Katrina Goulbourn stands out.



Fashion Week, fashion weak

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

SOFT chiffon pleats from Alex Bitong

WITH CLOSE to 200 clothes from 24 designers shown on the last night of the recent Philippine Fashion Week, you were left reeling, engulfed by the torrential parade of both the notable and the mediocre.

It was decidedly a lot to process in one show that, at some point, all the collections began to look almost alike. For one reason or another, some journalists began making a beeline for the exit even before a veteran designer could show, yet again, the same clothes he dug up from the *baul* on gala night.

We don't know if that is ever done anywhere—showing a collection twice on one Fashion Week, that is. The designer, one of the country's most respected, hardly needs the press so we suspect he was invited to lend credence to the whole affair.

And then there are the posers. A colleague overheard some "designer" (funny how the label is loosely used) smugly introducing himself as "from the INQUIRER" when he was asked to vacate a seat reserved for the media, as if expecting the person in charge of the seating arrangements to quiver in her shoes.

Meaningless 'deaths'

Wearing the IDs, distributed at the start of the Fashion Week, became moot, since just about anybody who could get past reception could get a seat. It was tragic that trees were felled for those useless invites and IDs.

The *pala* (groupies) and *kamag-anak* (relatives) outnumbered prospective buyers and clients. We do like to believe that designers all aim to translate their work into profitable business. We don't see how bringing rah-rah people can help achieve that goal. If anything, the whole process was reduced into a mere contest of who got the loudest cheer.

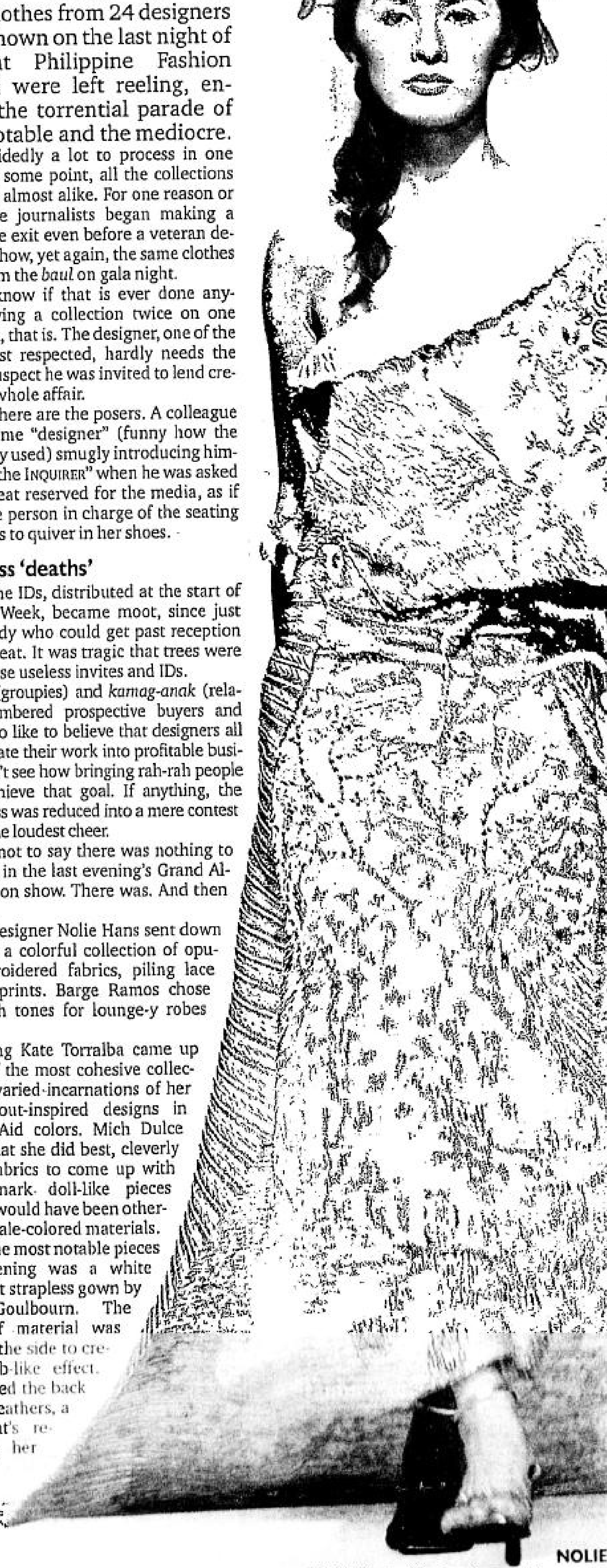
Which is not to say there was nothing to cheer about in the last evening's Grand Allure Collection show. There was. And then some.

Veteran designer Nolie Hans sent down the runway a colorful collection of opulently embroidered fabrics, piling lace over vivid prints. Barge Ramos chose muted earth tones for lounge-y robes and pants.

The young Kate Torralba came up with one of the most cohesive collections with varied incarnations of her puzzle cutout-inspired designs in vivid Kool-Aid colors. Mich Dulce stuck to what she did best, cleverly tweaking fabrics to come up with her trademark doll-like pieces from what would have been otherwise drab pale-colored materials.

One of the most notable pieces of the evening was a white zigzag-print strapless gown by Katrina Goulbourn. The rather stiff material was draped on the side to create an orb-like effect. She accented the back with bird feathers, a theme that's repeated in her other pieces.

FLOWY pants and tailored top from Barge Ramos



NOLIE Hans' clever manipulation of an otherwise difficult material

Ribbons and pleats

Accordion-pleated fabrics seemed to be the choice of several designers that evening. Alex Bitong resurrected veteran model Annette Coronel to don his beribboned pleated chiffon number. Joel Escober used a stiffer pleated material for half of his all-burgundy collection, and so did Hans in one asymmetrically draped gown. It was a tricky material, but they proved they could rein it in to come up with wearable designs.

Edgar San Diego opted to pay tribute to "Katy!" the musical, and his segment was perhaps the most upbeat in the long, drawn-out evening. It must have taken a lot of work to do his collection, but we couldn't help but feel they looked more like costumes than real clothes people would buy.

In the rag trade, it's hard to say who's original. However, we couldn't help but feel that Jontie Martinez's collection of body-skimming pastel jerseys was an unabashed knockoff of Roberto Cavalli-slash-Versace. Couldn't he have at least injected some originality?

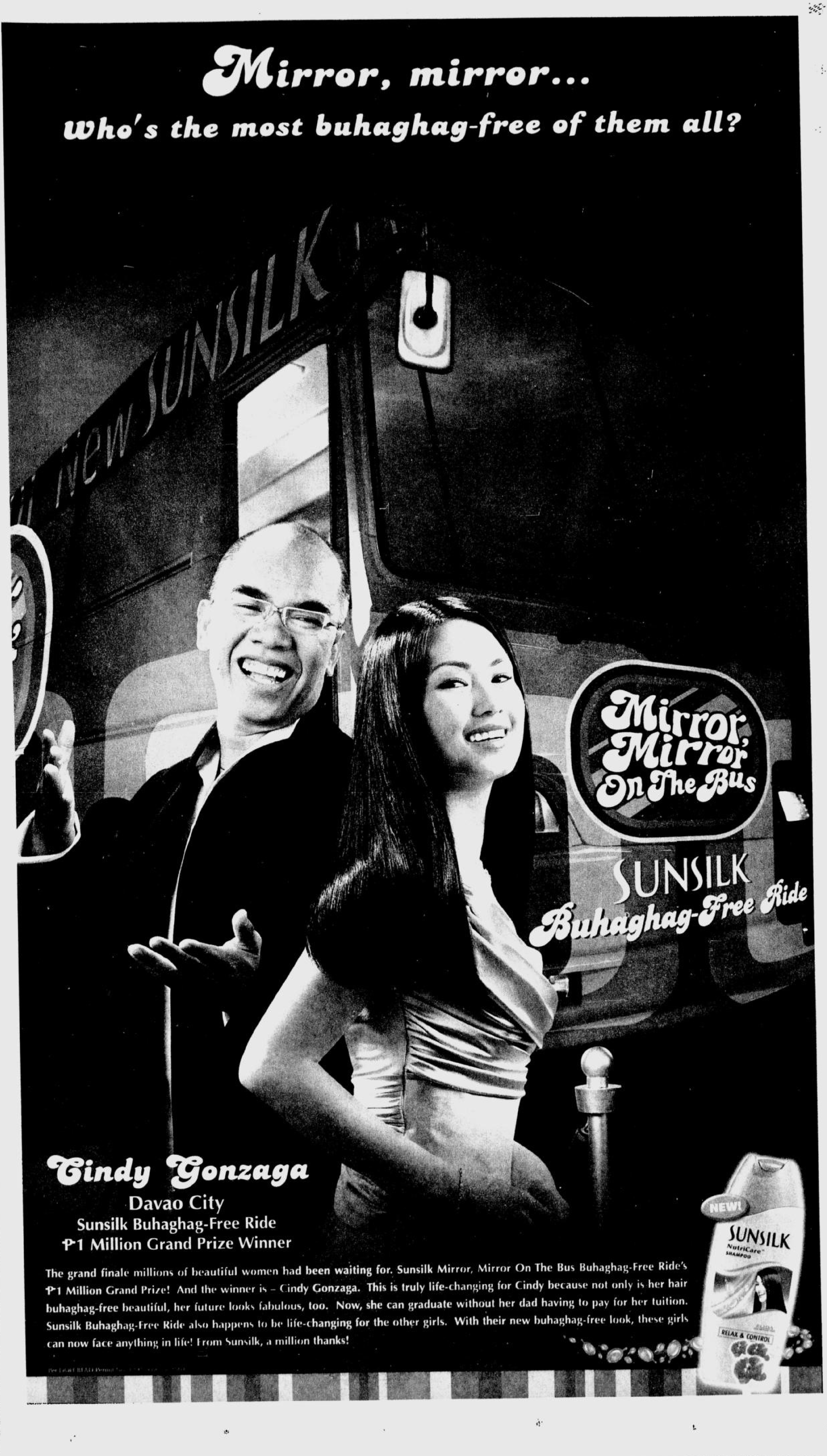
Then there was Rholand Roxas' saccharine cake-topper confections (pun intended) of cavity-causing frou-frou, and Ramon Favila's beribboned collection that looked like they were done by very lazy and uncreative department-store gift-wrapping personnel. They should be thanking heavens they brought their own *pala*, because, seriously, who would buy those clothes?

In other countries, even the most talented designers go through a needle's eye to show on fashion week. They have to prove they truly have a heart for the *business* of fashion, and not just after the prestige of doing a show. If the goal is to attract foreign buyers, then the organizers of the Philippine Fashion Week should, in the future, seriously apply similar conditions to local designers. Of course we are not so naive as to think the move will solve all the industry's problems, but it will be a start.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

RHOLAND Roxas aims for the top (of the cake).

WHAT Jontie Martinez lacked in originality, he could've made up with proper construction.



new SUNSILK
Mirror, Mirror On The Bus
SUNSILK
Buhaghag-Free Ride
NEW!
SUNSILK
NutriCare
SHAMPOO
RELAX & CONTROL

Mirror, mirror...

Who's the most buhaghag-free of them all?

Cindy Gonzaga
Davao City
Sunsilk Buhaghag-Free Ride
₱1 Million Grand Prize Winner

The grand finale millions of beautiful women had been waiting for. Sunsilk Mirror, Mirror On The Bus Buhaghag-Free Ride's ₱1 Million Grand Prize! And the winner is – Cindy Gonzaga. This is truly life-changing for Cindy because not only is her hair buhaghag-free beautiful, her future looks fabulous, too. Now, she can graduate without her dad having to pay for her tuition. Sunsilk Buhaghag-Free Ride also happens to be life-changing for the other girls. With their new buhaghag-free look, these girls can now face anything in life! From Sunsilk, a million thanks!

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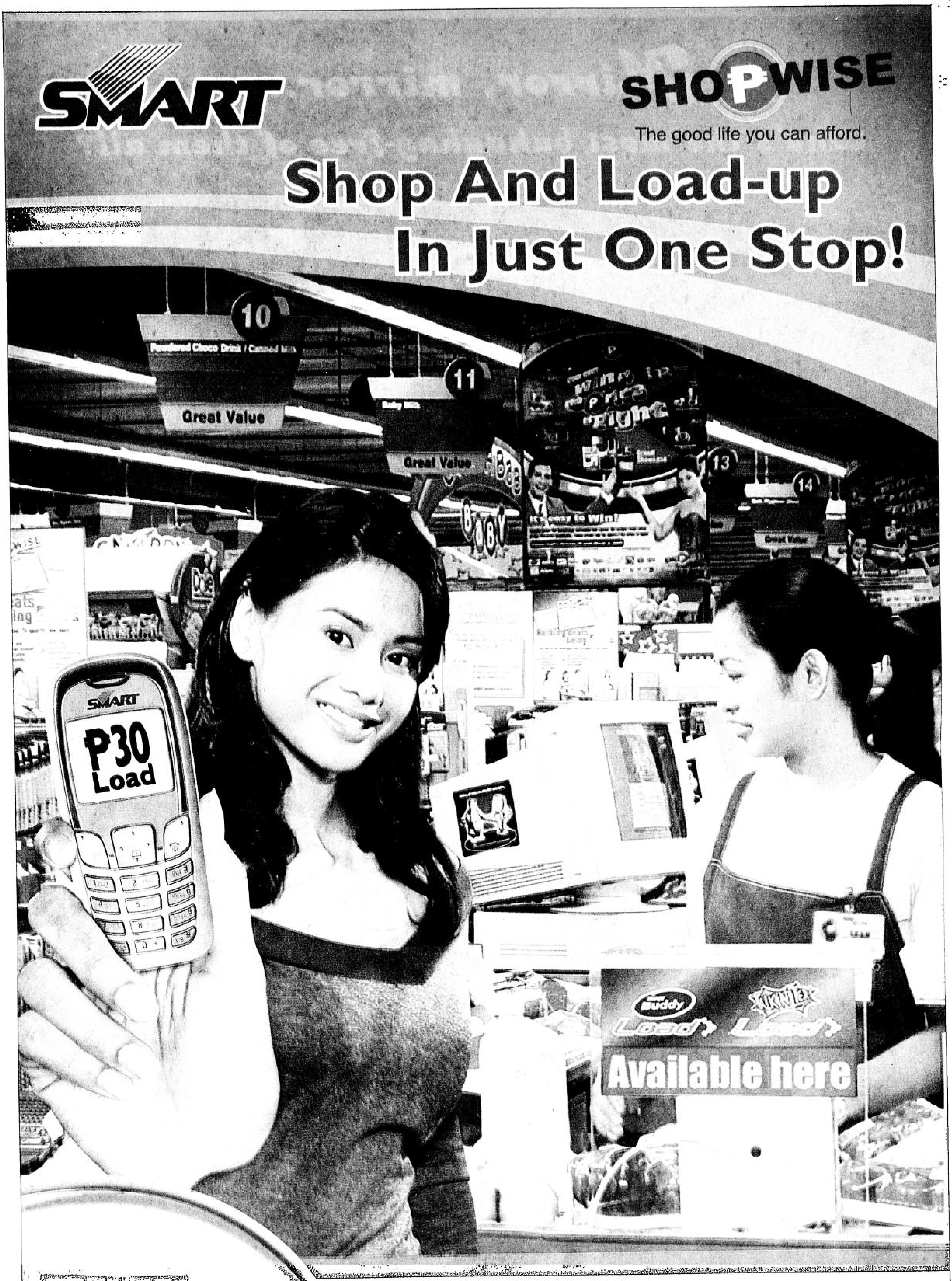
10
Powdered Choco Drink / Canned Milk
Great Value
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Great Value
13
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LIFESTYLE

Bench summer

ON RICA: summer dressing cotton, crewneck tee with print and low-rise bikini with floral design; (inset) On Phoemela: ringer cotton spandex tee with graphic print and low-rise floral bikini; on Luke: modern fit T-shirt from Bench Summer 2005 collection

THE SEASON: summer at its most sizzling.

The vibe: sweet one moment, sensuous the next, at once playful and pensive, lazy and delightfully dreamy.

The languorous cast of characters: svelte TV host Phoemela Baranda, sultry actress Rica Peralejo, hunky mainstay Jon Hall, boyish model Luke Jickain and rookie endorser Zanjoe Marudo.

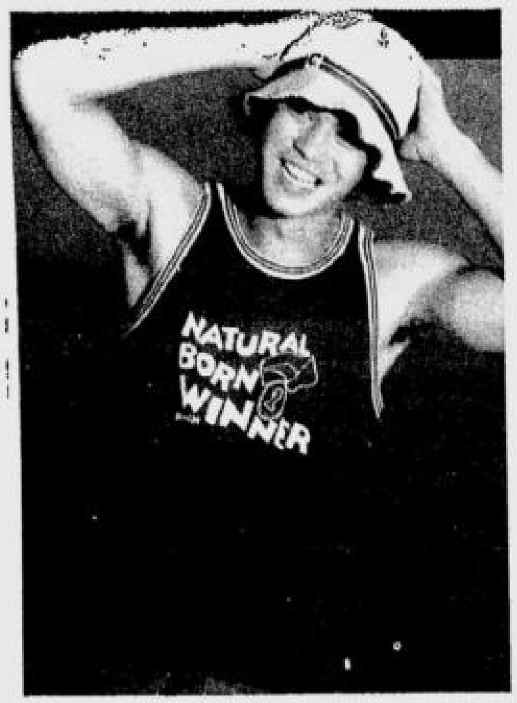
The setting: lush and idyllic Bohol.

The aphrodisiacs: fresh salad greens, sinful chocolate desserts, intoxicating cocktails and underwear as tempting and juicy as the ripening fruits of a tropical summer.

This is Summer Dressing '05, Bench's fantasy-inspired campaign — a reverie of beautiful bodies in the barest of essentials, a daydream of light laughter and sun-drenched fun, a carefree romp into playful floral prints and acid-laced colors.

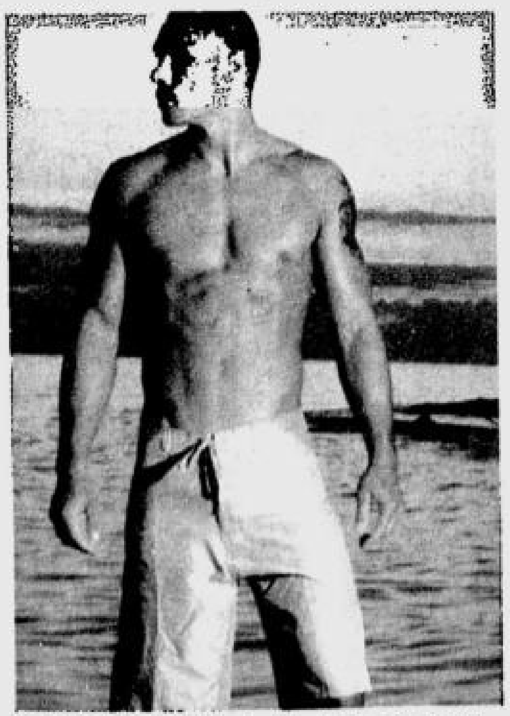
The hot summer spell is seasoned with delectable underwear in bright pinks, juicy

BENCH/ K4

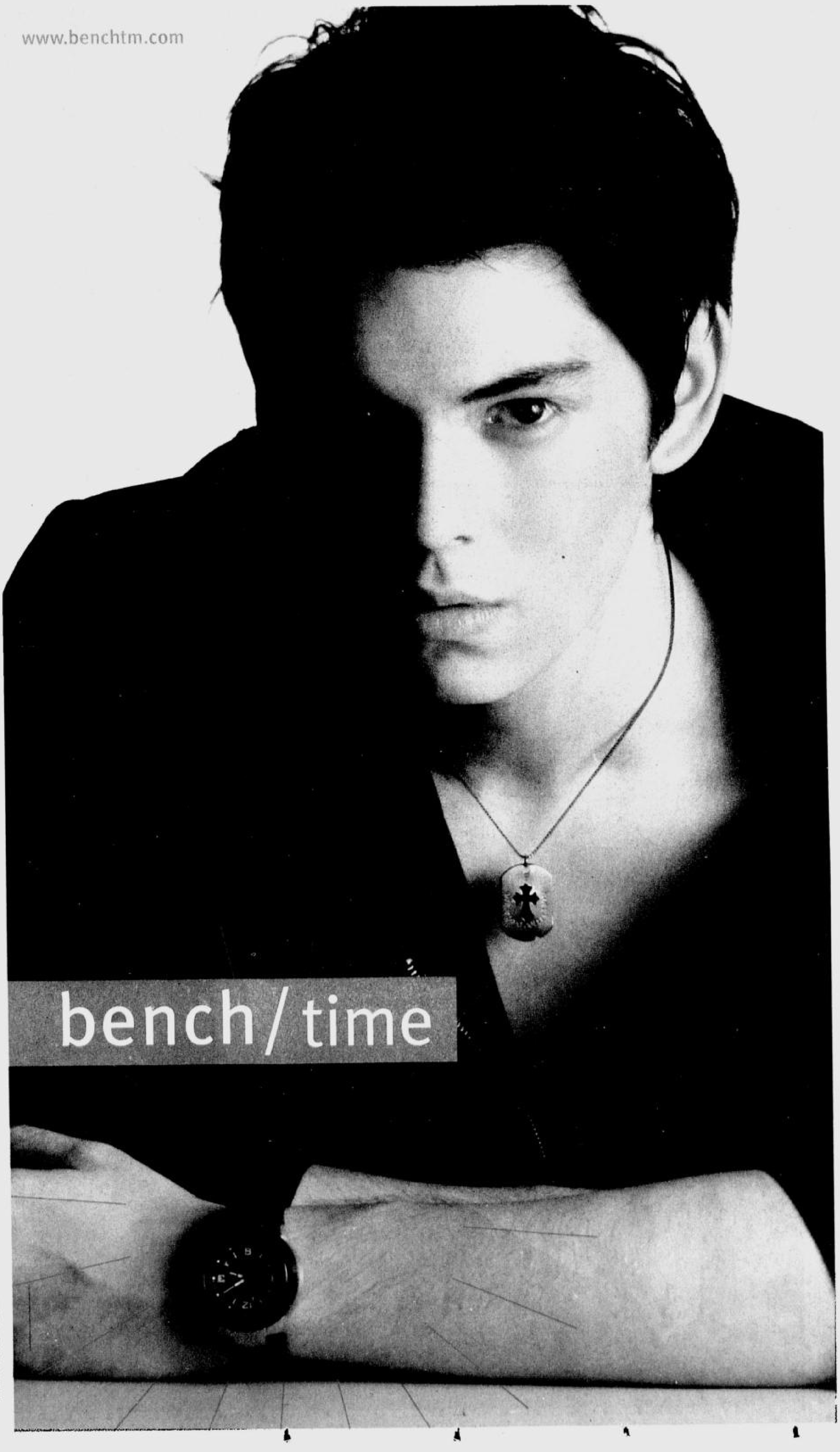


ON ZANJOE: Natural Born Winner top in 100-percent combed cotton paired with yellow gold fishermen's hat

PHOEM all pretty and pink in a HerBench tank top and Bench Body low-rise bikini



JOHN HALL is all set for fun in Bench board shorts



COTTON crewneck tee with print (P279.75) by Bench Tweeners and white casual pants by Herbench (P699.75)

WHITE cotton-Lycra tube top (P279.75), red canvas belt, P399.75), silver necklace (P130) and Overhauled low-rise jeans (P599.75), all by Herbench

YELLOW cotton crewneck badminton tee (P299.75), pink hipster shorts (P399.75) and sunvisor (P189), all by Bench Tweeners

To be tween

and cool about it

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

BIG sister, little sister. The pretty young things of the house no longer have to fight over who gets to wear that cute little outfit.

With Bench's new Tweeners line, for young girls aged 8-16, *kikay* little sisters now get to dress up as mini versions of their fashionable *ates*.

"There was definitely a gap in the market so we decided to fill it with this new line," says Gina Yupangco, who designs both Bench's Herbench and Tweeners lines.

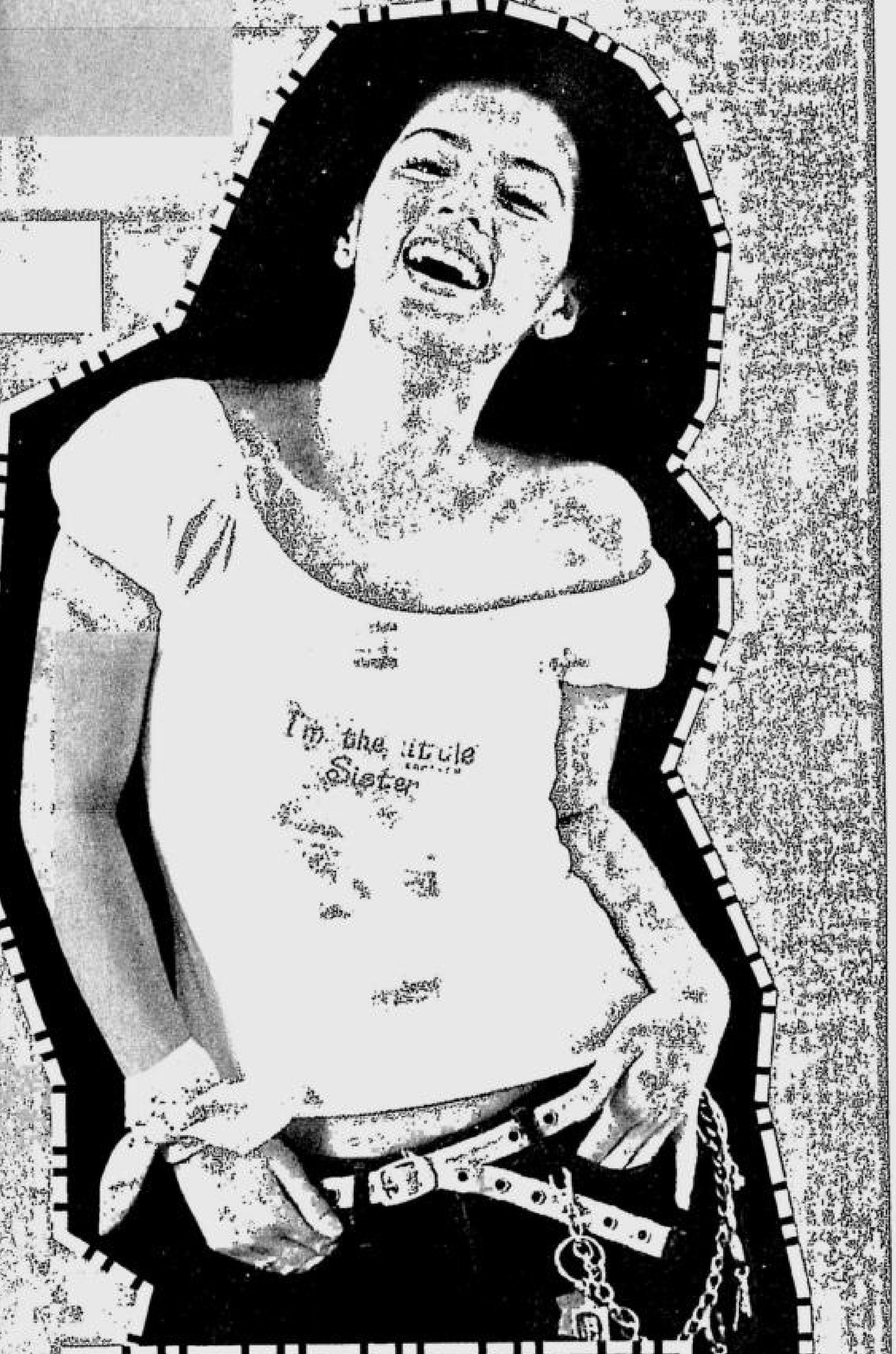
"Most young girls these days like to play dress-up, and in the awkward tweeners stage, where they're no longer kids but not quite adults yet, they really don't have much choice in the market."

Launched in late 2004, Tweeners for girls are mini replicas of the Herbench items. Details, however, are tailored for the younger ones, with prints like "I'm the little sister" emblazoned across tees. The line includes shorts, skirts and pants, as well as accessories like belts, trinkets, and footwear, too.

Meanwhile, Herbench shows its own brand of summer dressing with the label's reliable cotton tops and tees, some with stretch Lycra sewn in, in pristine whites and the coolest pastel shades. These are paired with the best-selling low-rise Overhauled denims, and jazzed up with Herbench very *kikay* accessories.

Herbench and Tweeners are available in all Bench boutiques. The bulk of the Tweeners line can be found at Superbench in Market! Market!, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Both Herbench and Tweeners are modeled on this page by young actress Shaina Magdayao.



PINK cotton-Lycra V-neck tee with brooch (P499.75), pale blue skirt (P599.75) and belt with grommets (P399.75), all by Herbench

APPLE-GREEN three-quarter-sleeved full-button shirt (P649.75), cotton tank with print (P149.75) and Overhauled low-rise jeans (P649.75), all by Herbench

WHITE cotton boat-neck tee by Bench Tweeners (P279), belt with silver charms (P399.75) and Overhauled 11 Red Series denim jeans (P599.75), both by Herbench

WHITE woven top (P729.75), blue tank top (P349.75) and Overhauled low-rise Jeans (P649.75), all by Herbench

SPORTY men's watch with red ring dial stainless steel and rubber strap (P2,990)

> Although a newcomer, Bench/Time is already building a reputation as one of the best quality brands in the market

BENCH/TIME sleek men's watch with blue dial and leather strap

BLACK timepiece with yellow ring dial and rubber strap for the athletic.

TIMELESS timepiece with light-green dial and leather strap.

Aiming for No.1

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Raffy Lerma

JUST in time for summer... Bench/Time unveils its latest watch collection with a variety of attractive designs—from the stylish and sophisticated, sporty and functional, to the classic and vintage.

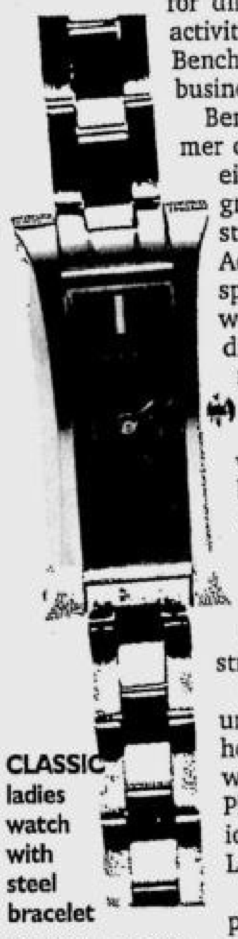
"Compared to Bench/Time's first timepieces launched a few months ago that were a bit basic and straightforward, Bench/Time's summer collection is more hip, up-to-date and fun (and may be worn) for different occasions and activities," says Brian Lim, Bench vice president for business development.

Bench/Time's sleek summer collection for men has either blue or light green dial and leather straps for smart appeal. Active men can go for sporty black wristwatch with yellow or red ring dial and stainless steel rub strap.

For women, a classic black or white watch with steel bracelet is a stylish choice. Fashionable ladies may also opt for red or salmon-colored dial with beige or brown leather strap.

"With the Bench/Time unique collection, we're hoping to be the no. 1 watch brand in the Philippines in the fashion watch category," says Lim.

Prices for Bench timepieces range from P2,000-to 3,500.



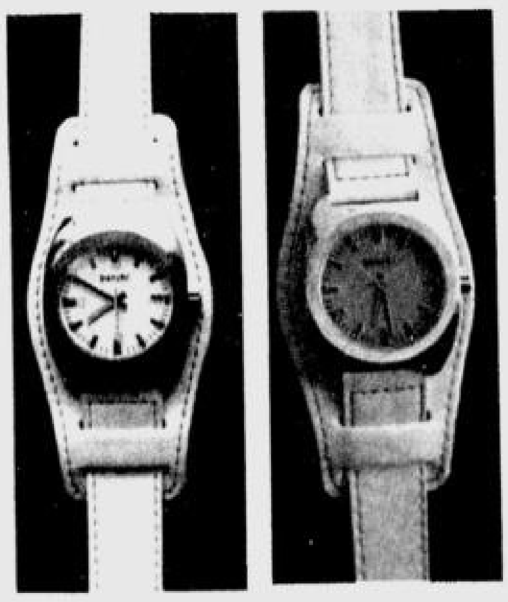
CLASSIC ladies watch with steel bracelet

Tough

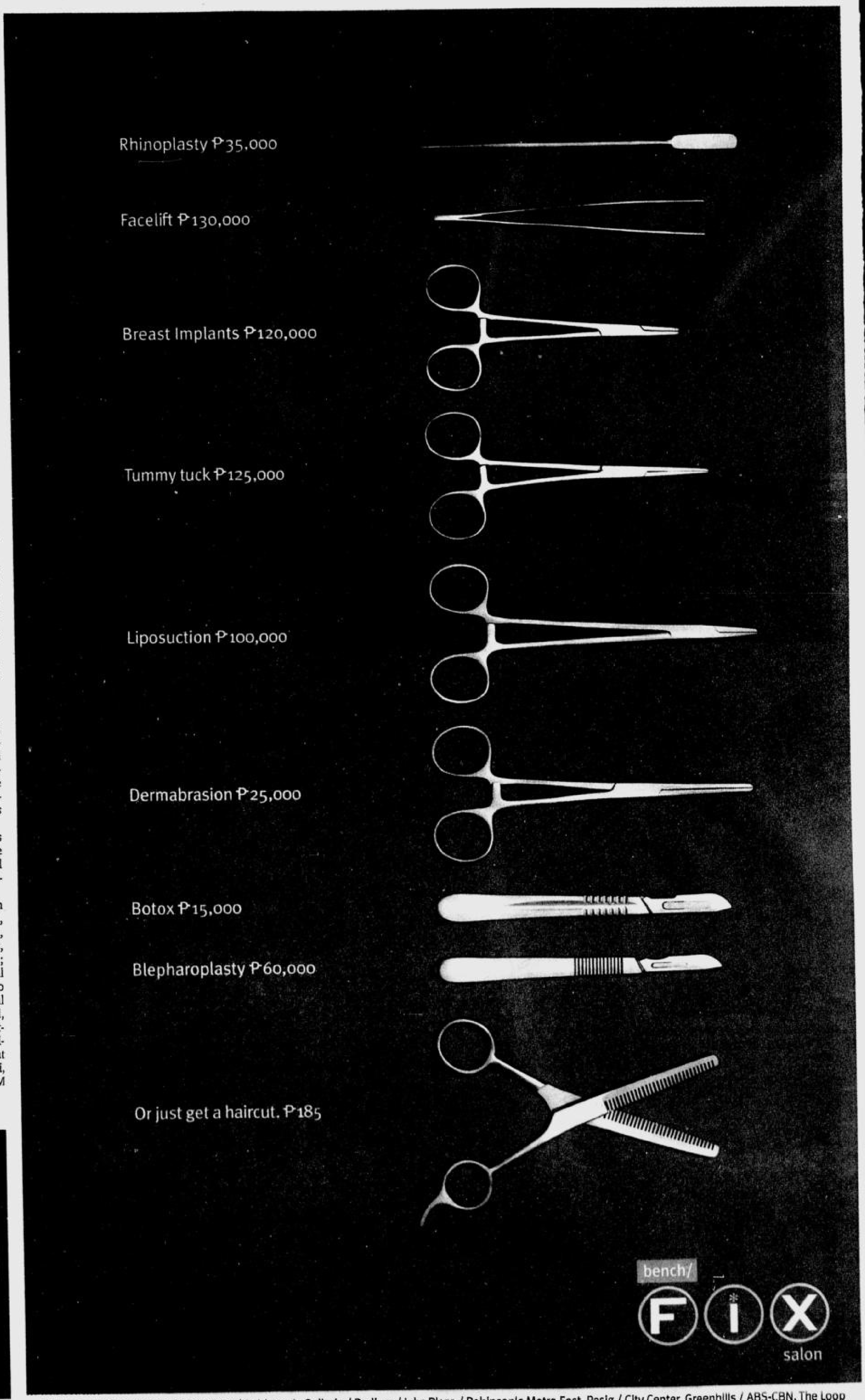
Bench and a team of watch specialists and designers developed Bench/Time. All timepieces are made of surgical grade, solid stainless steel. Buckles are fitted with a double-locking mechanism that ensures the watch stays in place, regardless of how vigorous a wearer's activity may be. All watches are water-resistant.

Bench tapped L Time Studio, the country's leading lifestyle watch store that offers the largest collection of fashion, sports and lifestyle watch brands, for the exclusive distribution of Bench/Time.

Bench/Time watches are available at Bench outlets at Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, Glorietta 3, Power Plant Mall, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Centerpoint, SM Las Piñas, Robinson's Galleria and Robinson's Ermita; Herbench outlets at Glorietta 3, SM Megamall and SM North Edsa; and at L Time Studio branches at Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, Market! Market!, Power Plant Mall, Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Ermita Department Store, Robinsons Pioneer Place, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, The Landmark Department Store Makati, SM Department Store Makati, SM Megamall, SM Bicutan, SM Pampanga, SM Baguio and SM Batangas.



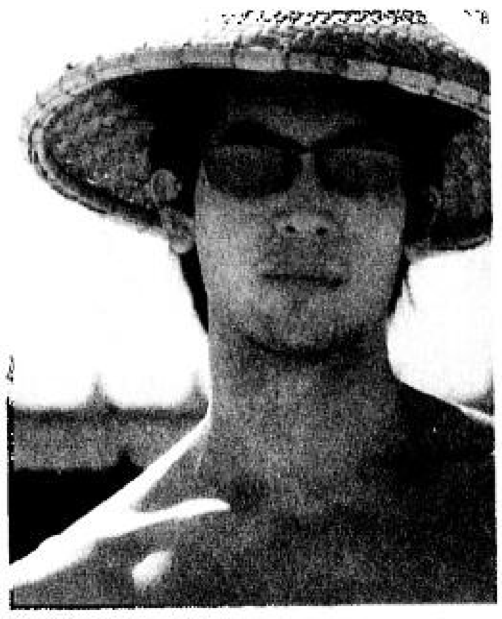
FASHIONABLE ladies' watches with leather strap and cuff.



Robinson's Place Manila / Glorietta 4 / Robinson's Galleria / Podium / Jaka Plaza / Robinson's Metro East, Pasig / City Center, Greenhills / ABS-CBN, The Loop
First Aid, Greenbelt 3 / SM Bicutan / SM North Edsa / La Fuerza / Ever Commonwealth / Karenza Place, Dapitan St. / Pavilion Mall / Starmall Edsa
Burgundy, Taft / NE Pacific, Cabanatuan / Torres Bldg., Katipunan / Festival Mall / Bay City Mall, Batangas / The Arcade Bldg., Zamboanga / Cybermall, Libis

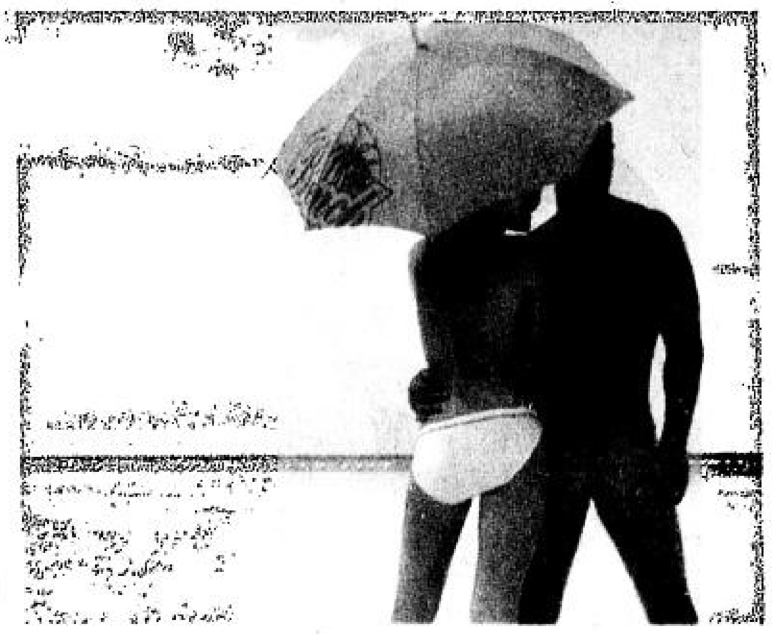
BENCH
Rodeo Camp
ESTABLISHED 87

ON JON: semi-fit T-shirt in 100-percent combed cotton



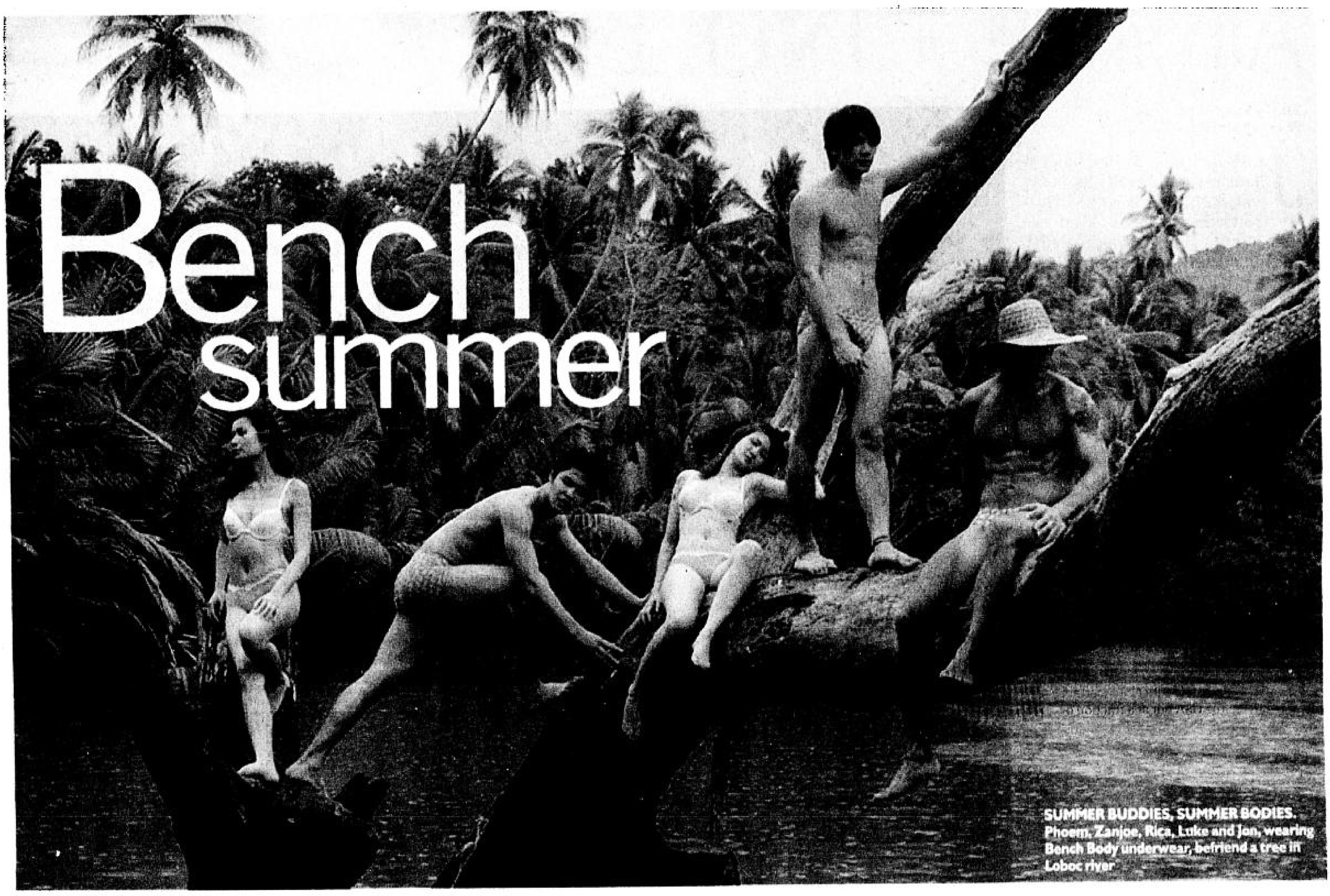
STARE at the beauty of summer in Bench eyewear. Available with case, wiper and screwdriver.

FEEL LIKE a superhero in a semi-fit T-shirt in 100-percent combed cotton



ON PHOEMELA: BXZ low-rise mini brief; on Jon: hipster brief with Bench body logo

Bench summer



SUMMER BUDDIES, SUMMER BODIES. Phoem, Zanjoe, Rica, Luke and Jon, wearing Bench Body underwear, befriend a tree in Loboc river

ACCENTUATE those rosy cheeks with a HerBench Frozen Yogurt crewneck tee in pink

From page K1

tangerines and sunny yellows. Women's briefs and underwired bras take on a shower of tropical florals and are barely recognizable from swimwear. Lacy camisoles and tank tops in popsicle colors sweeten up the mix. To add some spice, men's underwear are as bright and upbeat. A drizzle of cheerful florals and retro stripes liven up men's boxers and briefs, and lend a playful, sexy variation to the usually sedate neutrals of men's undergarments.

Thirst is quenched with shades of refreshing blue and cool lime. To top off the scrumptious spread, Bench adds light Overhauled denims, fun logo caps, and crowns and garlands stringed with pretty, colorful florals.

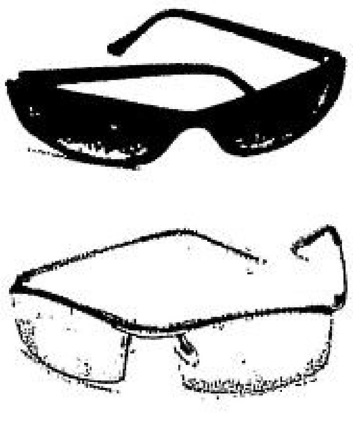
The list will never be complete without Bench's breezy summer tees in vivid hues of orange, pink and aqua blue, all with luscious prints to satisfy anyone's cravings. Too: Terrific tank tops with fun and fab I-believe-in-this-shirt statements.

This is Summer Dressing by Bench. A teaser that borders between reality and reverie. A storyline that's both sexy and wholesome. An experience that exhilarates as much as it liberates.

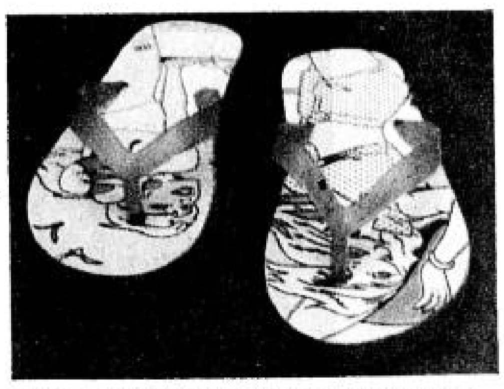
The Bench Summer Dressing '05 collection is available at all Bench, Herbench and Bench Body boutiques nationwide.

With its latest Dress Up, Cool Down promo until April 30, get a free Tropicana Twister for a minimum purchase of P1,000 worth of Bench/Herbench products in a single receipt.

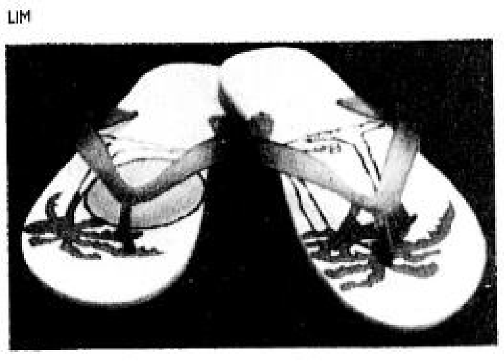
This is Summer Dressing '05 by Bench, the essential ingredient that adds flavor to the salad of youthful vitality and sylphlike figures.

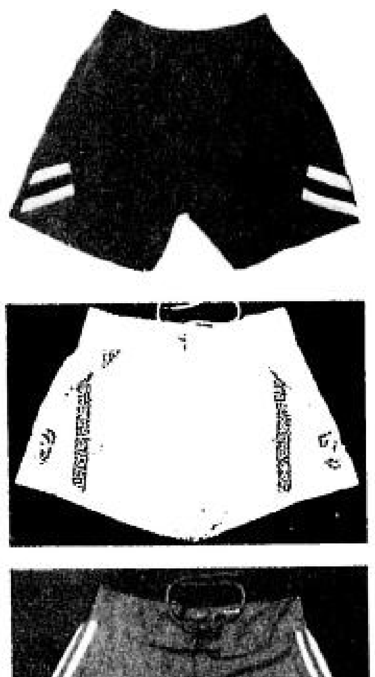


EYEWEAR (from P399 to P499)



FLIPFLOPS (above) available in clear white and red, P129; (below) also available in black and navy blue, P139 PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA AND RYAN LIM





SHORTS in Henna, White and Red, in 100-percent nylon taslan (P429.75 each)

PURE Mist facial water

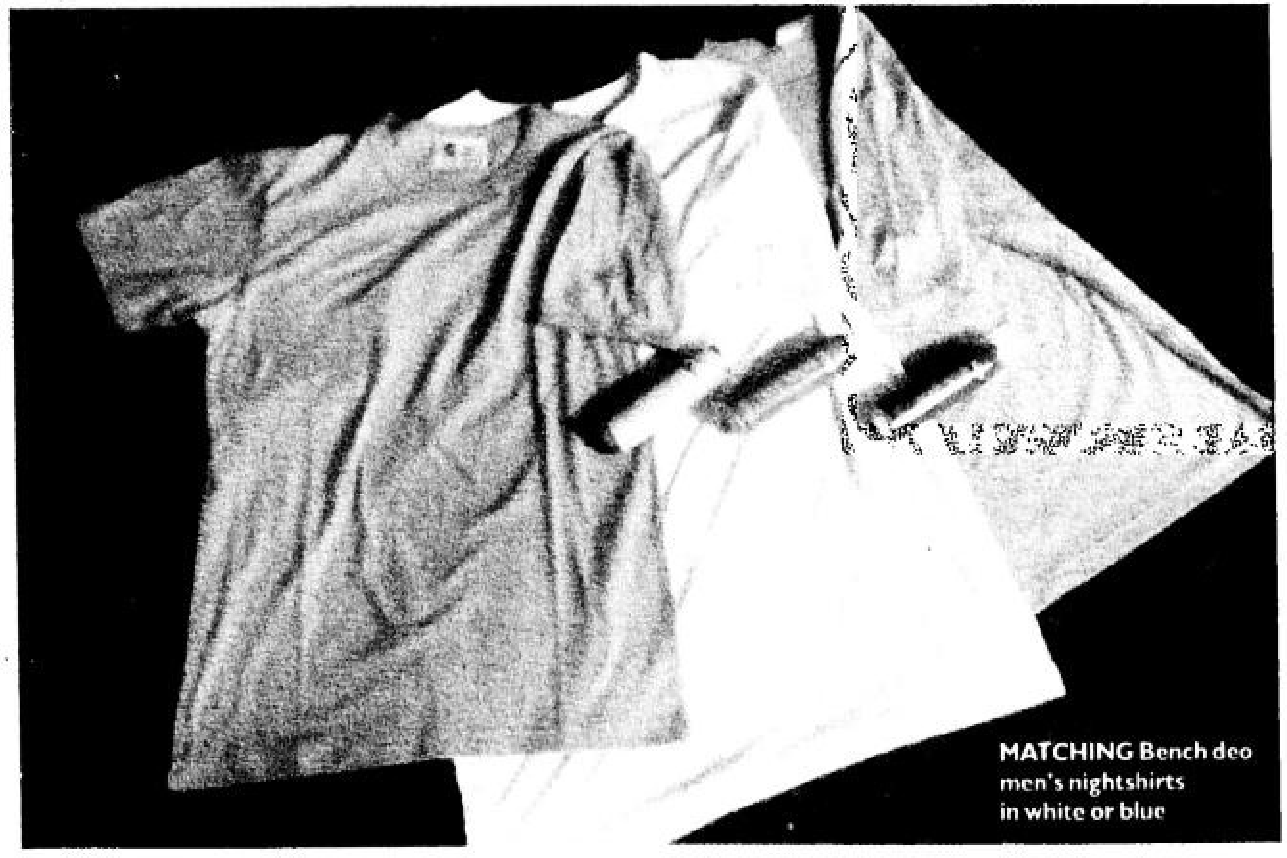
HERBENCH
93

THE FACES and bodies of Bench Summer Dressing '05 in cool summer outfits: Jon Hall, Phoemela Baranda, Luke Jickain, Rica Peralejo and Zanjoe Marudo

TROPICAL bags (1) available in pink and yellow, P199; (2) also in pink, green and purple, P169; and 3) also in aqua blue, green, yellow and pink, P179.

BARE Me Not deo spray with matching tank top

SO In Love deo spray with matching halter tank



MATCHING Bench deo men's nightshirts in white or blue

Double treat for sweet dreaming

Bench creates matching nightshirts for its deo body sprays

By Kinny Salas

DID you know that not only Filipino teens have made it a habit to visit Bench stores?

It seems even yuppies from the United States, certain parts of Europe and Australia make it a point to go to a Bench store when they are in the country. The top two things they buy are basic shirts and colognes that they swear are almost identical to certain brand names from the USA but at a fraction of their costs.

Bench has taken note of this and decided to give customers a double treat by creating matching tops for their deo body sprays.

It has created three deo spray variants for men: Pure Play, Fast Break and Sure Blue. The three variants for women are Tickled Pink, So In Love and Bare Me Not.

The body sprays for men take their scents from the aquatic/citrus powder family while those for women are fruity/vanilla powder-based.

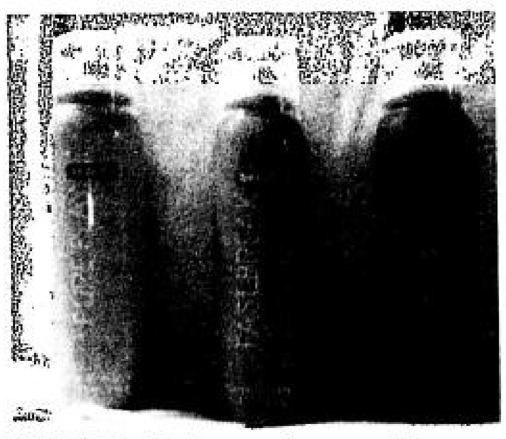
Both sets are color-coded. The powder blue bottle of Pure Play Tickled Pink's baby pink indicate they are the mildest. Turquoise Fast Break and bubblegum pink So In Love are mid-range while teal blue Sure Blue and hot pink Bare Me Not have the strongest and most pronounced scents.

The milder the scent the stronger the powdery undertones, which gradually disappear as the scent becomes stronger and the bottle gets darker in color.

With these choices available to customers, they are most likely to find what suits best their individual body chemistry.

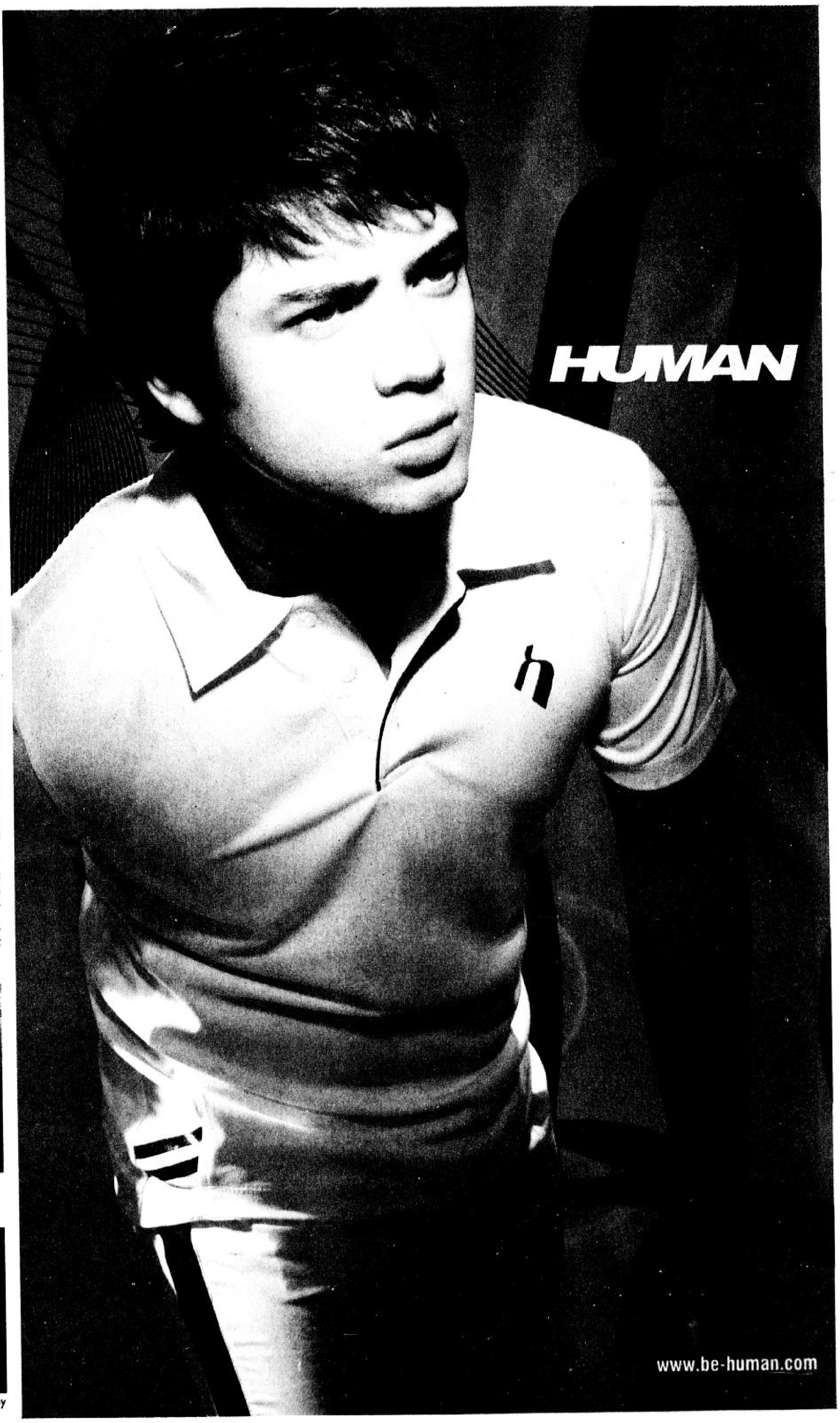
As for the matching shirts, the girls definitely get a sweeter deal as their nightshirts have a wider range of styles from spaghetti straps and halter tank top to tight baby tee in pink and white.

The boys get to pick only from comfy T-shirts in light blue or white with very discreet writing on the sleeve.



BENCH Deo body sprays for men—Pure Play, Fast Break and Sure Blue

TICKLED Pink spray deo with matching Baby tee shirt



'Cool' is affordable

Hair care and styling products at all Fix salons and PCX stores give the young the look they want at a price they can afford

FIX
CLAY DOH
molding clay
FIX
SOOO POLISHED

CLAY Doh and Sooo Polished

HAIRLASTIC and Agent Bond

By Kinny Salas

"COOL" is a description usually sought by the young.

And, thanks to the 1950s (remember John Travolta's Danny Zucco character in "Grease"?), hair has become the symbol of coolness especially in men.

One problem though for those wanting to look cool is that hip designer hair products to help get the look they want mostly cost an arm and a leg. The products are likely to cause a huge dent in the limited budgets of young men and women, from those just starting up the career ladder to high school students.

Those who can afford the products, older and more established in their careers, are usually aiming for an "un-cool" hairstyle.

So Bench has come to the rescue of those wanting to have that cool hairstyle at a reasonable price. Moving beyond the typical mousse and hair gel made popular in the 1980s, it has created affordable counterparts for products from imported brands.

Here's a guide to what you should get for the look you want:

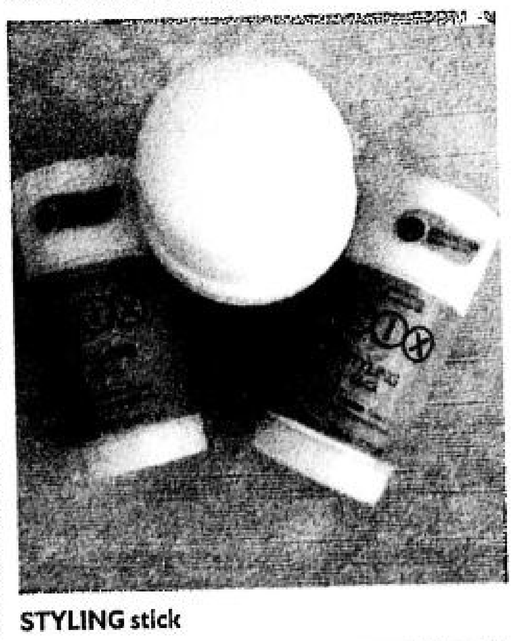
1. The matte messed up look—So you want short spiked hair without the dated lacquered shine? Hairlastic Flexible Fiber at P150 gives just enough shine to make the hair look naturally healthy while creating a free forming shape and style for the hair at medium hold. The product is best for creating twisted curls for medium length hair or tousled or tamed short spiked hair.

2. Natural tossed hair—You want tamed hair but still want to be able to run your fingers through it and to change how it is parted or add body within the day. Polished Shine Wax at P200 gives maximum shine with very light hold. Dry, chemically treated hair will get a polished look without a heavy, greasy after-feel. The wax enhances the natural style and cut and has olive oil to condition the hair. It is best for medium to long hair that lacks shine.

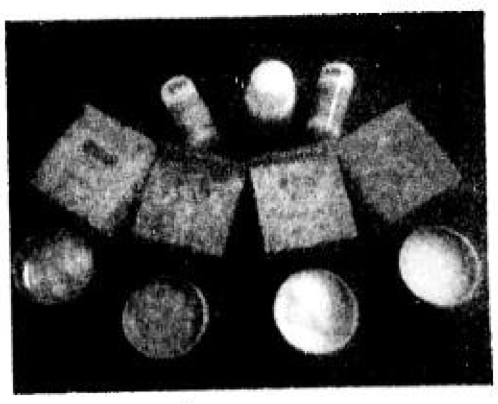
3. Messed up look with glossy finish—You crave attention and are an artist at heart. Your hair is one of your ways of expressing yourself. Agent Bond Styling Gum at P150 gives an extra vinyl shine and a strong hold. You can maintain that outrageous shine all day or night. You can suspend those spikes and hold that gravity—defying shape on medium to short hair.

4. Out of bed look—A style probably made famous by Meg Ryan is now attainable for the stylish on a budget. It's ironic, but to look like you made no effort to fix your hair requires a little work and the right product. You would need the extreme hold of Clay Doh Molding Clay at P200. Its matte finish makes it appear like no product is used and the look is just effortless cool. Your medium to short hair can be sculpted, spiked and restyled at will.

5. Matte messed up look—It takes a truly cool person to carry off this revived version of the much maligned "Tancho Tick" 'do. Styling Stick Matte Finish, P125, is the product for those wanting the 50s hair style or the Julius Caesar look made famous by George Clooney. The "stick," which should not be confused with stick deodorant, has a matte finish with no shine at all. Short to medium hair can be slicked down or spiked.



STYLING stick

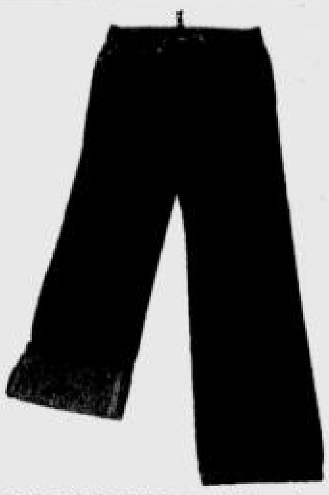


BENCH Fix products

bench_
BODY
GUR0019 Push up bra
HM0379 Peasant blouse
www.benchbody.com

HERBENCH

SANDBLASTED low-rise, semi-flare jeans, P699.75



SANDBLASTED straight-cut low-rise jeans, P649.75

SANDBLASTED low-rise bootcut stretch jeans, P649.75

SEMI-FLARE low-rise stretch jeans, P699.75

SANDBLASTED straight-cut low-rise stretch jeans, P649.75

SHORTS with riser pockets and embroidery, P449.75

SANDBLASTED shorts with riser pockets, P499.75

Bridging the great divide

Bench Overhauled offers cuts, styles and washes that fit different tastes and body types

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Raffy Lerma and Ryan Lim

IN THE DIVIDED world of fashion, denim is the one thing that reaches across all style groups. Whether you have the budget of an allowance-challenged student or a credit card swipe-happy gazillionaire, chances are, you have denim hanging in your closet.

Though it has been around for centuries, denim gives any wardrobe an injection of youth. Ultra-flexible, it can be dressed up for big dates and parties and dressed down for hanging out with friends or lazy days at the mall.

Bench Overhauled has continued the evolution of denim, coming out with new cuts, styles and washes that fit different tastes and flatter varied body types.

And with their affordable prices, buying more than just one piece isn't heavy on the pocket. After all, a person cannot have too many denim items in his or her closet.

Choose your perfect denim match and transform it with tops, shoes and accessories that fit your mood and personality. Only your imagination limits your denim's possibilities.

BENCH OVERHAULED

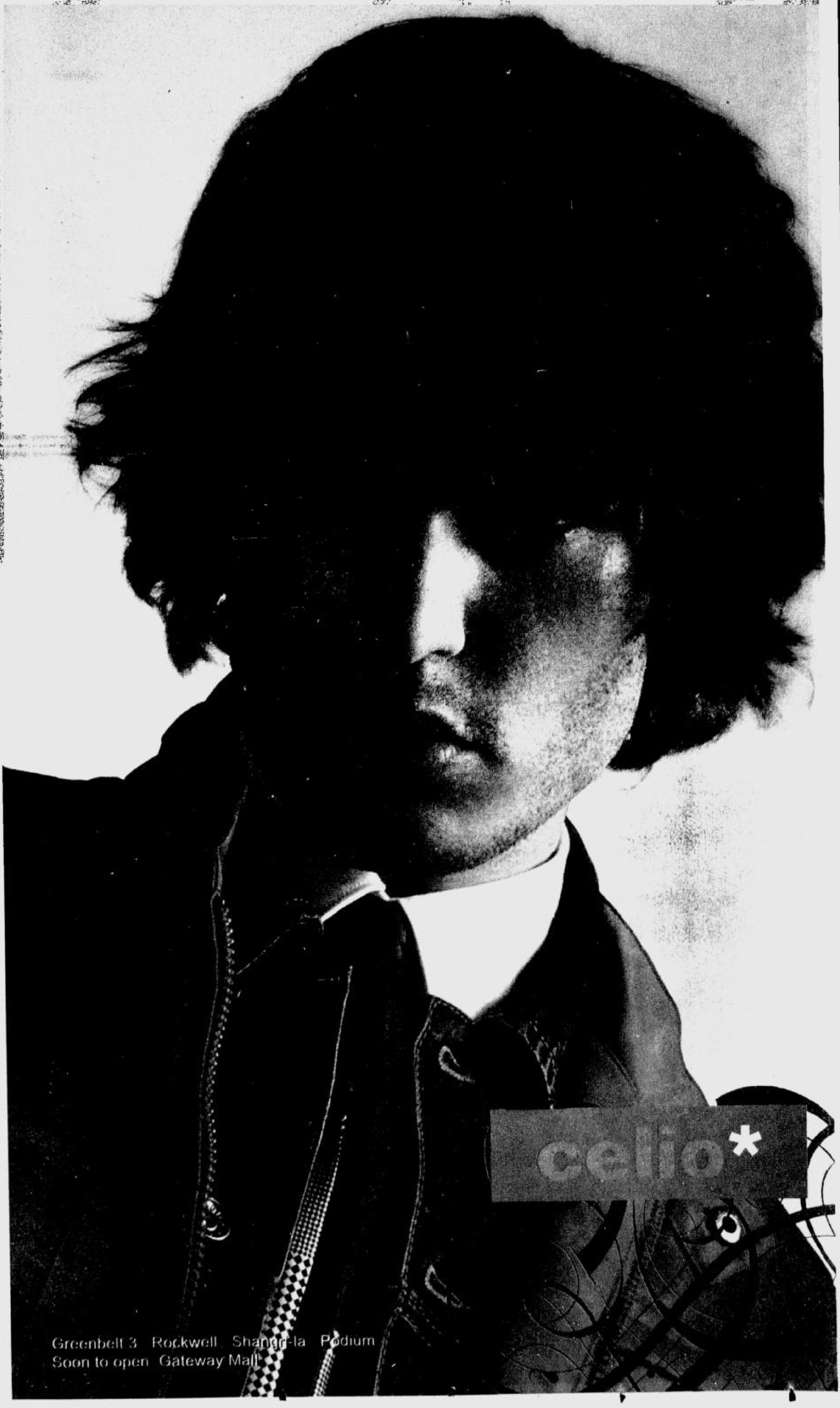
SUPER-LOW dark jeans, P699.75

RELAX-FIT jeans with red top stitch on coin pocket, P699.75

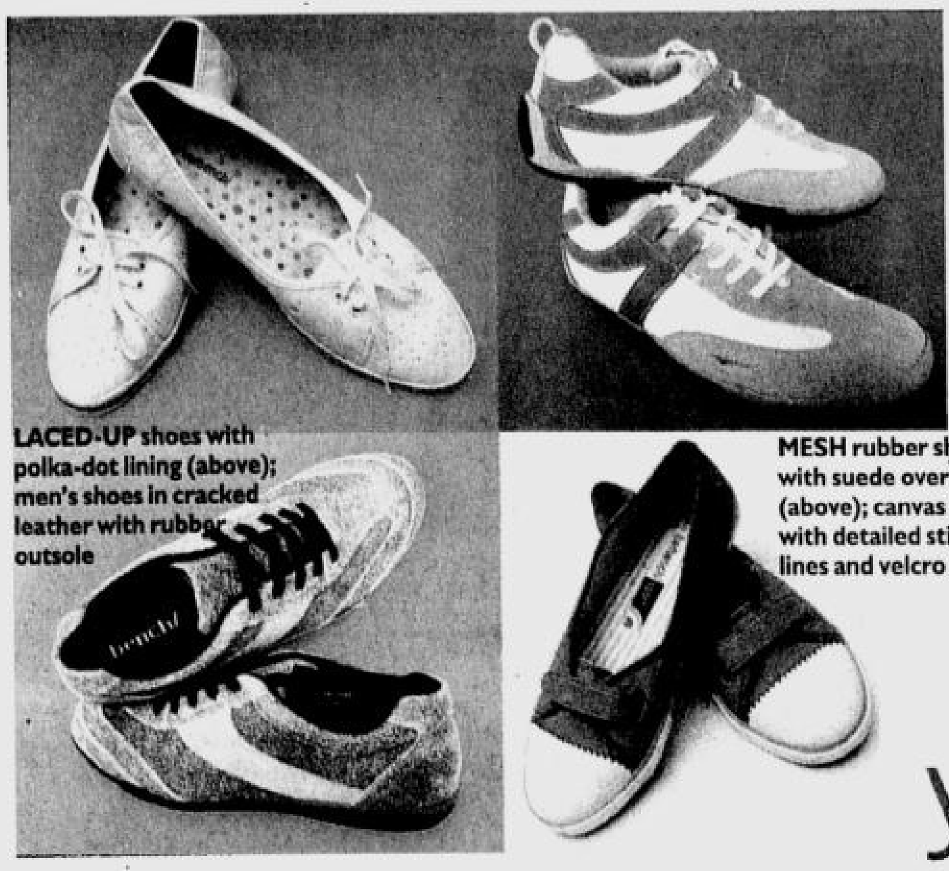
LOW-RISE sandblasted jeans, P649.75

SANDBLASTED super-low extreme gray jeans, P649.75

LOOSE-FIT hardware wash jeans with pin tucks on back pockets, P599.75

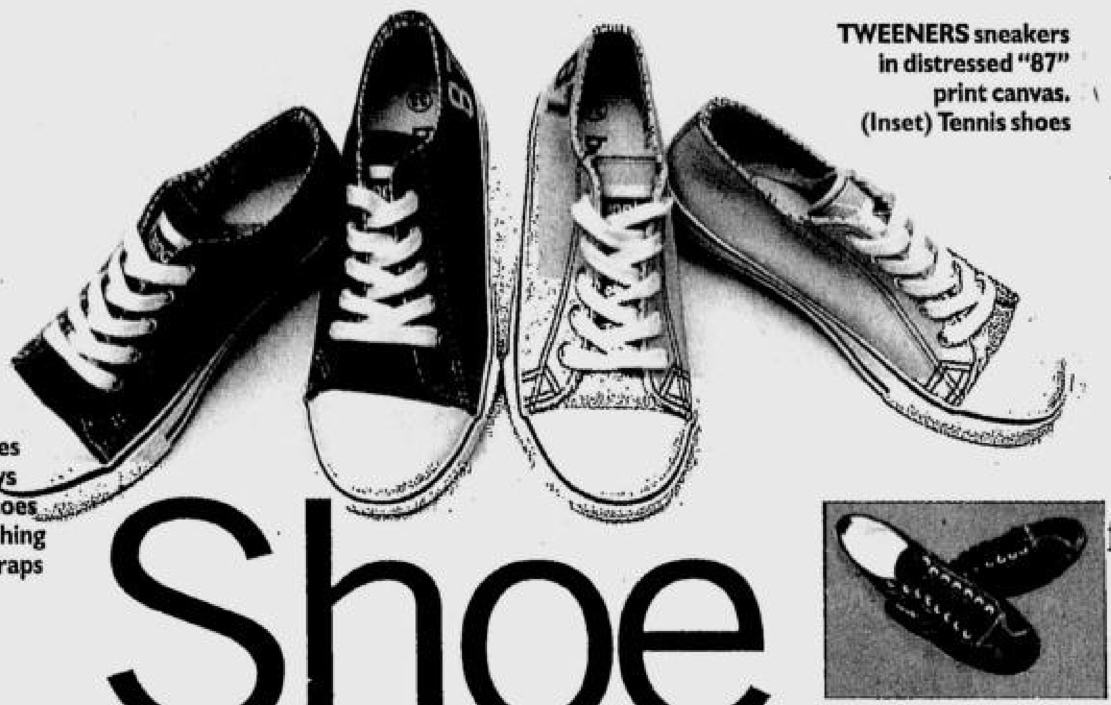


Greenbelt 3 Rockwell Shangri-la Podium
Soon to open Gateway Mall



LACED-UP shoes with polka-dot lining (above); men's shoes in cracked leather with rubber outsole

MESH rubber shoes with suede overlays (above); canvas shoes with detailed stitching lines and velcro straps



TWEENERS sneakers in distressed "87" print canvas. (Inset) Tennis shoes

Shoe your summer colors

To complete the look from head to toe, Bench offers casual footwear in the hottest of hues

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

FOUND the perfect pair of jeans and tees for the summer? Why not complete the look with a pair from Bench's all-new summer shoe collection?

You can get a nice pair of Bench mesh rubber shoes with suede overlays to match your casual garb, or slip into HerBench leatherette laced-up shoes with polka-dot printed lining and rubber outsole for a leisurely walk in the mall. All Bench footwear come in different bright shades and textures.

HERBENCH casual shoes

"Fashion trends change from season to season and, like clothes, shoes follow the trend. For this season, the look is more sporty and comfy," says Kristine Lim, Bench marketing division manager.

Bench shoes have steadily become a favorite among Pinoys since they were introduced about two years ago. "We first offered slippers in selected Bench stores back in 2003. Then we gradually started developing footwear as regular items for Bench," Lim says.

For this season, Bench has come out with a variety of stylish footwear for men, women and tweeners (those aged 8 to 16). Some of the designs have Bench Overhauled denims in mind. "We try to (have) our shoes complement all Bench apparel," Lim adds. The shoes are made in China and Taiwan.

Aside from the traditional black, white and brown shoes, Bench has an array of bright colors and styles, reasonably priced from P499 to P1,395.

Bench shoes are available at selected Bench outlets nationwide.

TENNIS shoes in patch canvas with contrast stitching

COMFY shoes in denim with woven checkered lining

SNEAKERS in canvas with two-stripe detail

PRETTY-IN-PINK footwear

GREYHOUND®
Original
Greenbelt 4 level 2

SALE
ON SELECTED ITEMS

April 15 to May 1, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permi No. A1258 series of 2005

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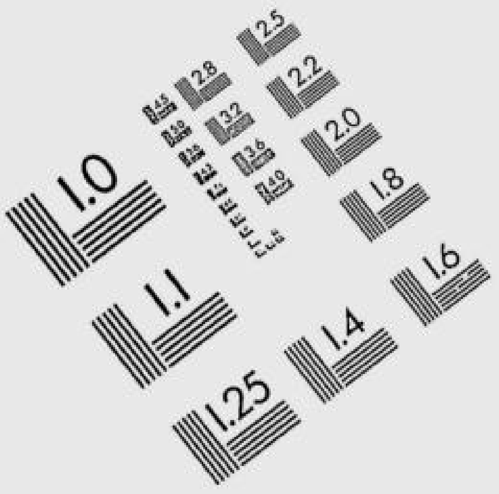
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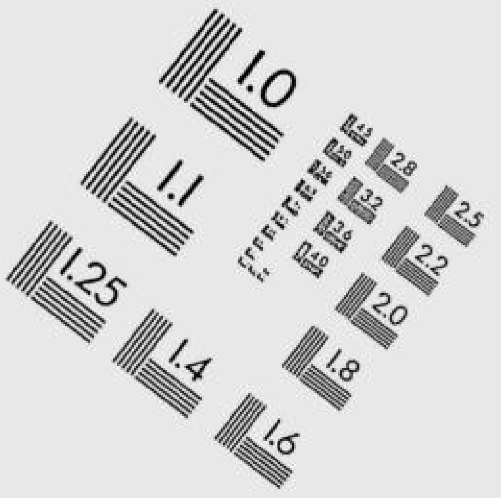
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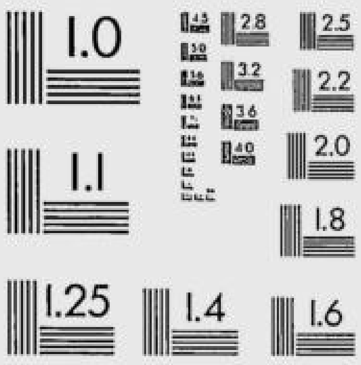
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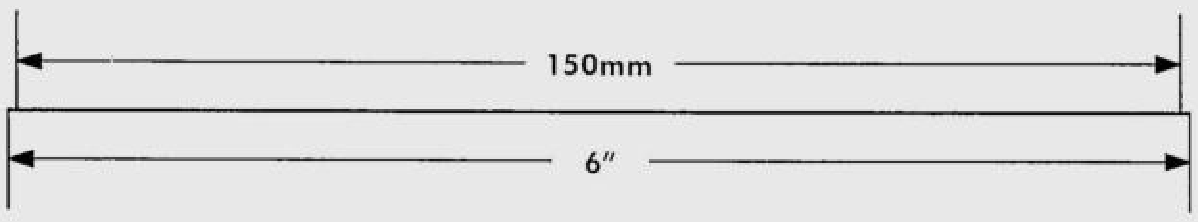

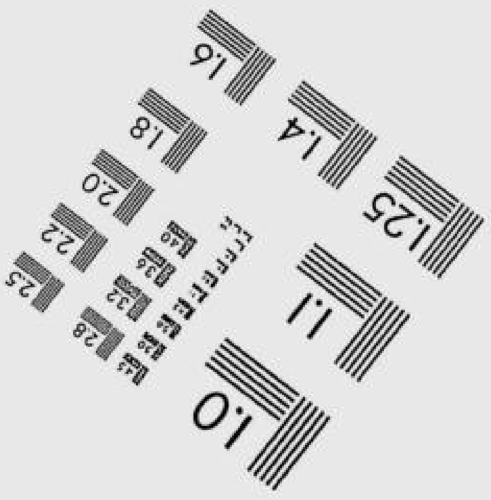
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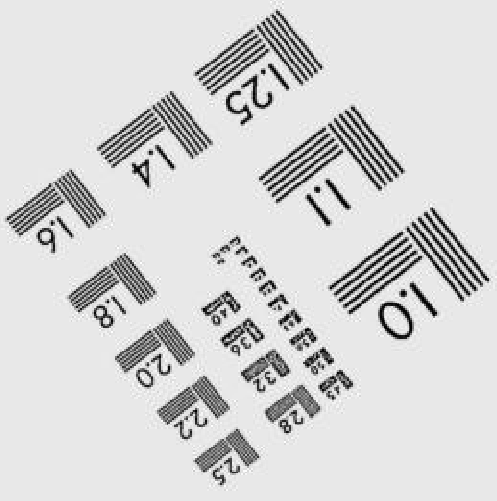
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